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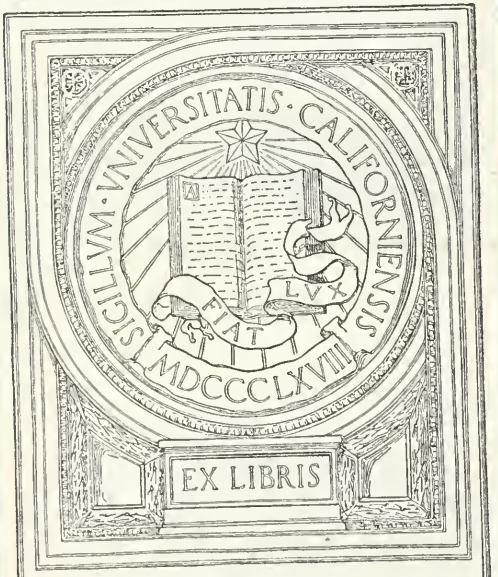

C. DORE,

E. J. Thomas

THE

POETICAL WORKS

OF

JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY

VOL. XII.

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THE

POETICAL WORKS

OF

JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY:

REPRINTED FROM THE ORIGINALS,

WITH THE LAST CORRECTIONS OF THE AUTHORS;

TOGETHER WITH

THE POEMS OF CHARLES WESLEY

NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.

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SHORT

HYMNS

ON

SELECT PASSAGES

OF THE

HOLY SCRIPTURES.

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Including such "SHORT HYMNS" as were Published in 1762.

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FOUR GOSPELS,

AND

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HYMNS

ON THE

FOUR GOSPELS,

AND

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

S. JOHN.

CHAPTER XIV.

2074. *Let not your heart be troubled.*—xiv. 1.

CALMER of the troubled heart,
Bid my unbelief depart,
Speak, and all my sorrows cease,
Speak, and all my soul is peace;
Comfort me, whene'er I mourn,
With the hope of Thy return,
And till I Thy glory see,
Bid me still believe in Thee.

2075. *In My Father's house are many mansions: &c.*—xiv. 2.

1 CAN we mourn as broken hearted,
We who hang upon Thy love,
Jesus for our sake departed
To Thy Father's house above?
Source of all our consolations,
There we our Forerunner see:
In those lasting habitations
Thou hast found a place for me.

2 All our hopes and souls we venture
On Thy never-failing word,
Sure into Thy joy to enter,
Sure to triumph with our Lord;
Though we fall into distresses,
Into countless trials fall,
When Thy love in death releases,
Heaven shall make amends for all.

2076. *And if I go and prepare a place for you, &c.*—xiv. 3.

1 THOU who hast undertook our cause,
Art fitting up the house of God;
The house was purchased on Thy cross,
And cost Thee all Thy sacred blood:
Our Head Thou didst arise again,
Our Harbinger go up on high,
And gifts receive for sinful men,
And pour Thy Spirit from the sky.

2 Thou hast enroll'd our names above,
Hast in our names possession took,
Who Thy Divine appearing love,
And for Thy final coming look:
Sure as Thou dost our place prepare,
Thou wilt with majesty come down,
And take us in that day to share
Thy joy, Thy glory, and Thy crown.

2077. *I will come again.*—xiv. 3.

COMFORT of all believing hearts,
Support of suffering saints below,
This is the word which life imparts,
And bears us through the vale of woe;

And trusting in their faithful Lord
To come again and fetch His bride,
Millions have lived upon this word,
And for this precious promise died.

2078. *Whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*—xiv. 4.

IMPERFECTLY they knew
Who but in part believed,
And Christ the living Way and true
Implicitly received;
Till Christ explain'd, increased
The faith Himself had given:
And then they openly confess'd,
And follow'd Him to heaven.

2079. *Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not, &c.*—xiv. 5.

WE grossly misconceive
The oracles Divine,
Till Thou an understanding give,
And in our darkness shine.
The gospel faith bestow,
Which doth Thy face display;
And then, O Lord, in Thee we know
The Life, the Truth, the Way.

2080. *I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.*—xiv. 6.

1 THE Way to God Thou art;
O might I walk in Thee!
The Truth, Thy light impart,
And make Thy servant free;
The Life of grace Thyself reveal,
And then my soul with glory fill.

2 By Thy example Lord,
Show us Thyself the Way:

The Truth by Thy own word
Into our hearts convey,
The Life by Thy own grace bestow,
And then in Thee our God we know.

2081.

1 By faith we walk in Thee
The Way, the Truth of grace.
And full felicity
By steadfast hope embrace;
And Thee the' eternal Life approve,
The only Object of our love.

2 We out of Thee, the Way
No end of wandering find;
Without the Truth we stray
In sin and error blind;
Without the Life as dead appear,
And hell must be our sepulchre.

2082.

1 Our heart hath lost by sin
The life of righteousness,
Our mind is dark within,
And wants the light of grace,
Our senses miss the creature-road,
Which should conduct us back to God.

2 But lo, in Christ alone
Again the Way we see
To God and heaven made known
Through His humanity
Again the Truth His light imparts,
And Christ the Life revives our hearts.

2083.

1 Thee Jesus we confess
Our Advocate and Friend,

Truth of the promises,
And joys which ne'er shall end,
Our Principle and Head receive,
By whom alone Thy members live.

2 Who wilfully refuse
The Life, the Truth, the Way,
Deserve themselves to lose
And in delusion stray,
Deprived of grace while here they breathe,
And then to die the endless death.

3 But O the Way came down
Our wandering souls to seek,
The Truth of light unknown
Did in our darkness speak,
And lest we should in death abide,
The Life Himself for sinners died.

4 Now in the Way we go
Who Christ by faith receive,
By faith the Truth we know,
By faith the Life we live,
On Jesu's cross to heaven ascend,
Where faith in Jesu's sight shall end.

2084. *No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.*—xiv. 6.

1 The great Invisible, unknown
In darkness inaccessible,
Jehovah's co-eternal Son,
Thou only dost to man reveal,
And through the fountain of Thy blood
Bring back a rebel world to God.

2 Author of our salvation, Thee
Author of faith our hearts confess,

Through Thy atonement on the tree
  Bold we approach the throne of grace,
And find Thy name to sinners given
Saves us from hell, and lifts to heaven.

3 Thy Father's mind through Thee we know,
  His image with His grace retrieve,
To Him we in Thy footsteps go,
  His hidden life in Thee we live,
And led by Thy good Spirit we move
To see His open face above.

2085. *Have I been so long time with you, and yet, &c.*—xiv. 9.

1 Me, me, Thou justly may'st upbraid:
  Even from my earliest infancy
Thou hast with Thy frail creature stay'd,
  Yet still, O Lord, I know not Thee;
My Saviour unreveal'd Thou art,
Unfelt this moment in my heart.

2 With me, I find, Thou still dost dwell,
  For unconsumed on earth I live,
I am not with the fiends in hell,
  But wait Thy Spirit to receive,
Who makes Thy heavenly Father known,
And shows that God and Thou art One.

3 O wouldst Thou now Thy Spirit breathe,
  And bid my unbelief depart,
The peace Thou didst to me bequeath,
  The pardon speak into my heart,
And let me now my Father see,
The Image of my God in Thee.

4 Sufficient is that sight alone
  To answer all my wishes here;

Come then, and make Thy Godhead known,
As crucified for me appear,
Be Thou set forth before mine eyes,
I ask no other paradise.

2086. *Believest Thou not that I am in the Father, &c.*—xiv. 10.

1 WHO shall make the Father known,
The absolute I AM,
One in essence with the Son,
In person not the same!
Reason at the mystery reels
Which faith presumes not to declare;
Each in each for ever dwells,
And yet distinct they are.

2 Everything the Son receives
With being from the Sire,
All He is the Father gives
Yet is not chief or prior;
What He gives He still retains,
And with His unbeginning Son
Consubstantial God He reigns
Through endless ages one.

2087. *Believe Me that I* am *in the Father, &c.*—xiv. 11.

1 THAT Thou art God Most-High
Thy actions testify,
Proof Divine Thy wonders give,
Lives the Father in the Son,
Thou dost in the Father live,
Both inexplicably one.

2 Yet must I more desire,
And different proof require;

Sovereign, everlasting Lord,
If almighty love Thou art,
Speak the soul-convincing word,
Fix the Witness in my heart.

3 Then shall my actions show
That God resides below,
In His genuine children seen,
By His Spirit's traits display'd;
He who seals the sons of men
Makes the members like their Head.

2088. *He that believeth on Me, the works that I do, &c.*—xiv 12.

1 JESUS to Thy Father gone,
Thou hast Thy suit obtain'd,
Sent the' almighty Spirit down,
And power for man ordain'd;
Ampler power Thy servants show'd
Than that Thou didst Thyself display,
Thee declared the' eternal God,
And taught the world to' obey.

2 Thou didst by Thy garment's hem
The body's plague expel,
The believer in Thy name
Could by His shadow heal;
In Thy name the twelve went forth,
To work the works by Thee design'd,
Spake with tongues, proclaim'd Thy worth,
And conquer'd all mankind.

3 Still Thou dost Thine arm reveal,
Thy power and goodness spread,
Sinsick souls the faithful heal,
And daily raise the dead:

Still in every age and place
The men whom Thou art pleased to send
Work the greater works of grace,
And work till time shall end.

2089. *And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, &c.*—xiv. 13.

1 JESUS! Thy merits plead,
Who didst my nature take,
Whatsoe'er Thou know'st I need
I ask it for Thy sake:
Do the thing my case requires;
(My helpless case to Thee is known;)
Satisfy Thine own desires,
And take me to Thy throne.

2 All this mountain load remove
Of guilt and misery,
That Thy Father's power and love
May shine display'd in Thee:
Fit my soul with Thee to live
Who hast for my salvation died;
Then Thou shalt the praise receive,
And God be glorified.

2090. *If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will, &c.*—xiv. 14.

LORD, I ask it in Thy name,
To be preserved from sin,
Keep me free from actual blame,
Till I am pure within:
Lord, I ask a farther grace,
A kingdom in the realms above;
Bring me to that heavenly place,
And crown me with Thy love.

2091. *If ye love Me, keep My commandments.*—xiv. 15.

STRANGERS to Thy love are they
Who call it bondage to obey:

Be it our delight to prove,
Obedience is the truth of love;
Love which no compulsion knows,
But freely from the Fountain flows,
Returns spontaneous to the skies,
Pure as the streams of paradise.

2092. *I will pray the Father, and He shall give, &c.*—xiv. 16.

1 JESUS Thy weakest followers here,
On whom Thou kindly hast bestow'd
A principle of pious fear,
A heart to seek our joy in God:
This smallest seed of love unfeign'd
We surely have received from Thee,
And tempted with our Lord remain'd,
And hoped Thine utmost word to see.

2 While feebly in Thy paths we tread,
And most imperfectly obey,
Thy goodness and Thy truth we plead,
And for the promised Blessing pray:
Our day of Pentecost is nigh,
Yet still it is not fully come,
Till Thy good Spirit descend from high
To make us His eternal home.

3 Upon Thy faithful mercies stay'd,
We hold the precious promise fast
To us and to our children made,
To all as long as time shall last;
That Spirit purchased by Thy blood,
That Spirit granted to Thy prayer,
Is daily on Thy church bestow'd,
The saints' abiding Comforter.

4 Father who always hear'st our Friend
And Advocate before Thy throne,
Vouchsafe that *Paraclete* to send,
That Spirit of Thy spotless Son;
Ah give Him in our hearts to dwell,
To fill with life, and love, and peace,
To constitute, and fix, and seal
Our present and eternal bliss.

2093. *He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*—xiv. 17.

1 With us we know He dwells,
The Spirit of our Lord,
For still His counsels He reveals,
Interpreting His word:
To us the promise made
We still through Him receive,
And trust, the Spirit of our Head
Shall *in* His members live.

2 His present power controls
The flesh which lusts within,
Keeps down the rebel in our souls,
And holds us back from sin:
He visits us unsought,
And freely doth inspire
Our hearts with every serious thought
And every good desire.

3 He gives the grace unknown,
Helps our infirmity,
And groans the' unutterable groan
And pleads the' effectual plea:
Our God is pleased to hear,
And streaming from above
The Father, Son, and Comforter
Fills all our hearts with love.

4 Come then, celestial Guest,
Into Thy temple come,
Take full possession of the breast
That pants to be Thy home:
Spring up, Thou living Well,
Thou Lord of life Divine,
And now Thy humble mansion seal
Through endless ages Thine.

2094. *Because I live, ye shall live also.*—xiv. 19.

FOUNTAIN of life, I gasp for Thee!
Thy streams of immortality
Into my soul derive:
Now let me live the life of grace,
And when complete in holiness,
The life of glory live.

2095.

BE it according to Thy word;
Jesus our living quickening Lord,
To Thee our all we owe;
Thy rising is the cause of ours,
And fills our souls with heavenly powers.
When Thee we truly know.

2096. *At that day ye shall know that I* am *in My, &c.*—xiv. 20.

1 THAT happiest day I long to see,
To fathom the great mystery,
And by Thy Spirit know
That Thou dost in Thy Father dwell,
One God incomprehensible
But by the church below.

2 Thy members with Thyself are one,
Flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone,
Who didst our nature take;

And when Thou hast Thy Spirit shed,
Assured that Thou art man indeed,
We here Thy body make.

3 In Thee we then are creatures new,
And testify that Thou art true
And dost Thy Spirit give;
Thy nature, image, mind impart,
And still in every faithful heart
Our hope of glory live.

4 Conscious of the indwelling God,
We feel Thy love diffused abroad,
Thy perfect love reveal'd:
Come is our day of Pentecost,
And Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
His spotless church hath fill'd.

2097. *He that hath My commandments, &c.*—xiv. 21.

1 Happy soul whom Jesus chooses,
Loving servant of his Lord!
Love obedience true produces,
Love shall bring its own reward:
To His most imperfect lover,
Him who just begins to know,
Jesus will Himself discover,
All the depths of Godhead show.

2 For that farther revelation
Humbly Lord, I wait on Thee;
Visit with Thy great salvation,
Show Thine utmost love to me;
Make Thy goodness pass before me,
With Thy heavenly Father one,

In my heart display Thy glory,
Then translate me to Thy throne.

2098. *He shall teach you all things.*—xiv. 26.

O THAT we might the Spirit find
By Jesu's grace bestow'd,
Which leads us into all the mind,
And all the things of God!
Come, Holy Ghost, Thy power display,
And teach us all in one,
Teach us in Christ the living Way
To God's eternal throne.

2099. *For My Father is greater than I.*—xiv. 28.

GREATER than the Son, as man,
The Father we confess;
Neither Son nor Father can
As God be more or less:
From eternity the Word,
The God supreme we worship Thee
Jesus, with Thy Sire adored
To all eternity.

2100. *And now I have told you before it come to, &c.*—xiv. 29.

FAITH we surely know and feel
The end of prophecies,
Trusting Thee who didst foretell
Thine own triumphant rise,
Confident the hour will come
When we the promised life shall gain;
After Thee forsake the tomb,
And in Thy kingdom reign.

2101. *And hath nothing in Me.*—xiv. 30.

1 JESUS fill'd with sanctity,
Sanctity itself Thou art!
Nought of evil is in Thee,
Nought that takes the tempter's part:
Satan came in vain to find
Aught in Thee he call'd his own;
Pure in life and heart and mind,
Sinless Thou, and Thou alone.

2 Saviour, take my sins away,
All my sinfulness remove,
Bid me always watch and pray,
Fill'd with faith and purest love:
Keep possession of my breast,
Thou my true perfection be;
Satan then may still molest,
Nothing shall he find in me.

2102. *But that the world may know that I love the Father.*—xiv. 31.

ANOINTED, sent from Him
Saviour, Thou didst fulfil
Thy great commission to redeem,
And do the Father's will;
Hereby Thy heart we know
Who didst our griefs sustain,
And unto death obedient, show
Thy love for God, and man.

2103. *Arise, let us go hence.*—xiv. 31.

AT Thy command we rise,
And hence depart with Thee,
Strong in the strength Thy cross supplies
We walk to *Calvary;*

With Thy obedience meet
The summons from above,
And like our Lord, by death complete
Our sacrifice of love.

CHAPTER XV.

2104. *Every* branch *that beareth fruit, He purgeth it.*—xv. 2.

1 If grafted into Thee, the Vine,
I bring forth fruit, the praise is Thine:
But use Thy sin-retrenching power,
Prune me that I may bring forth more;
That through Thy Spirit's grace, I may
The truth with all my heart obey.

2 Kindly Thou dost chastise, reprove,
The objects of Thy choicest love,
That thus we may Thy mind express,
Partakers of Thy holiness,
May meekly all Thy sufferings share,
And fruit unto perfection bear.

2105. *Now ye are clean through the word.*—xv. 3.

1 The word of pardoning grace
If I have heard from Thee,
And did by faith embrace
And am from sin set free;
The word did then my change begin,
True holiness impart;
And still Thy Spirit works within,
And purifies my heart.

2 The reconciling word
Thy cleansing blood applied,
And trusting in my Lord
My soul is sanctified :
And if I still abide in Thee,
Thou wilt my faith increase,
And bless with spotless purity,
With perfect holiness.

2106. *Abide in Me.*—xv. 4.

I WILL abide in Thee, my Lord,
Till life's extremest hour,
For Thou who gav'st the gracious word
Shalt give the gracious power :
And summon'd, with my friends above,
Thine open face to see,
An age of everlasting love
I shall abide in Thee.

2107. *Abide in Me, and I in you.*—xv. 4.

IN Christ the holy One
We dwell by faith alone,
The holy One we feel
By faith in us doth dwell :
Communion doth from union flow,
Till God as we are known we know.

2108. *As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, &c.*—xv. 4.

1 UNLESS we faith receive
And still to Jesus cleave,
Our God we cannot please
By fruits of righteousness,
Or work a work, or speak a word,
Or think a thought, without the Lord.

2 But freely justified
In Jesus we abide,
The Spirit's fruits we show,
In true experience grow;
Daily the sap of grace receive,
And more and more like Jesus live.

2109. *I am the vine, ye* are *the branches.*—xv. 5.

BRANCHES we could not be,
Unless we were in Thee,
But grafted in the Vine
By faith we now are Thine:
O may we still our faith retain,
And Thine eternally remain.

2110. *He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same, &c.*—xv. 5.

1 SIN, unimproved by grace,
I never can confess;
Till Thou repentance give,
Sin I can never leave:
Till Thou the contrite wish inspire,
I never can Thyself desire.

2 Thee, Lord, and Thee alone
Author of faith I own;
Thee, Saviour, I confess
Giver of holiness,
Who only dost on man confer
Our souls' eternal Comforter.

3 While sever'd from the Root
I cannot bring forth fruit:
But to my Saviour join'd,
The same in heart and mind,
I wait in impotence to prove
The whole omnipotence of love.

2111.

1 STUPENDOUS mystery,
Thy people Lord with Thee,
The members with their Head
Throughout the earth dispread,
In mind and will and spirit join,
One Christ, one body, and one vine.

2 Thy grace our souls receives
And animates our lives,
The Spirit from Thee proceeds,
And sanctifies our deeds,
Prevents, and with His power attends,
And all in Thy great glory ends.

3 By virtue from the Root,
Thy branches bring forth fruit,
The hundred-fold increase
Of solid righteousness,
Till with Thy humbling Spirit fill'd,
The pure, the perfect love we yield.

2112. *Without Me ye can do nothing.*—xv. 5.

1 JOIN'D no longer to the tree,
I nothing good can do,
Broken off, O Christ, from Thee,
Can nothing ill eschew,
Sever'd now through unbelief
The double impotence I feel,
Overwhelm'd with sin and grief,
And sinking into hell.

2 Pity, Lord, Thy creature's pain
And challenging for Thine,
Graft me in on Thee again,
The true immortal Vine :

Graft me in to part no more
Till love's maturest fruit I bear,
Then I reach the heavenly shore,
And bloom eternal there.

2113. *If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth, &c.*—xv. 6.

1 Ah! wretched souls, who once in grace
Who one in Thee were truly Thine,
But left for sin Thy righteous ways,
And shipwreck made of faith Divine,
By unbelief broke off from Thee,
They die in their apostasy!

2 Among the branches found no more,
Deprived of faith and life and love,
Abandon'd to the tempter's power,
Vilest of all the' apostates prove,
The sorest punishment require,
Cast into that eternal fire.

3 Saviour, reverse my righteous doom
Fallen, alas, from pardoning grace,
Yet do not in Thy wrath consume,
But give me still a longer space,
And graft again into the Vine,
And keep my soul for ever Thine.

2114. *If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, &c.*—xv. 7.

1 While the power of faith I prove,
I still abide in Thee,
While Thy words, O Lord, I love,
Thy words abide in me:
Strangely on my mind impress,
That thence they never may depart;
Grave the truth of righteousness
For ever on my heart.

2 Fruit of faith and charity,
The prevalence of prayer,
Prayer, which all obtains from Thee,
Abundant fruit shall bear :
Prayer its principle maintains,
The faith by which our spirit lives,
All Thy promises it gains,
And all Thy life receives.

3 Praying on for faith's increase
In every grace we grow,
Reach the finish'd holiness,
And to perfection go ;
One with Thee by faith and love
We ask and have whate'er we will,
Till we from the vale remove,
And find Thee on the hill.

2115. *Ye shall ask what ye will.*—xv. 7.

WHAT shall I ask but Thee ?
Thou, Lord, art all in one :
In time and in eternity,
I ask my God alone.

2116. *Herein is My Father glorified, that ye, &c.*—xv. 8.

1 FATHER, Thy name be sanctified !
Thy nature to my soul declare,
So shall I in the Vine abide,
And fruit unto Thy glory bear ;
A witness of redeeming grace,
O might I in Thy Spirit live,
Abound in works of righteousness ;
And Thou shalt all the praise receive.

2 One only work on earth I have,
One only means Thy praise to show,
My own and others' souls to save
Is all my business here below:
I live Thy mercy's minister
Myself to second life restored,
A genuine child of God appear,
A true disciple of my Lord.

3 So let my light to others shine,
That they my works of faith may see,
With wonder own they are not mine,
But wrought by Thy great power in me:
The' effects of Thy triumphant grace
O might they all adore and prove,
And born again my Father praise,
The' almighty God of faithful love.

2117. *As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved, &c.*—xv. 9.

1 He for Thy sake approves us,
With grace Divinely free,
And still Thy Father loves us
As members, Lord, of Thee:
The cause of His election
Unsearchable we own,
And all our God's affection
Receive through Thee alone.

2 Thy love's an emanation
Of His to Thee above:
Before the world's foundation
Thou didst Thy people love:
And whom Thou mak'st Thy dwelling
Thou surely wilt defend,
And by Thy Spirit's sealing
Preserve us to the end.

2118. *Continue ye in My love.*—xv. 9.

THEE Jesus, I adore,
Whose word doth strength ordain,
And trusting in Thy power,
I shall Thy love retain ;
Continue in Thy favour
Till soul and body part,
If Thou my dearest Saviour
Continue in my heart.

2119. *If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide, &c.*—xv. 10.

1 OBEDIENCE to our Lord must prove
The truth and constancy of love,
By this our faithfulness is tried,
By this we in His love abide :
Submissive to the Father's will
He bids us *His* commands fulfil,
And joins in all He owns for His
Obedience and eternal bliss.

2 Jesus the true fidelity
The Spirit's fruits produce in me,
O let my life and heart confess
The' effects of Thine almighty grace,
That fill'd with faith which works by love,
And serving like Thy saints above,
My soul may gain the joy prepared
The fulness of Thine own reward.

2120. *These things have I spoken unto you, &c.*—xv. 11.

1 THOU didst rejoice to' obey
Thy Father's utmost will :
Thy joy, O Lord, in us shall stay
Who Thy commands fulfil :
And when Thy will is done
By us like those above,

We find our heaven on earth begun
In pure obedient love.

2 The more like Thee we live,
The fuller joy is given,
We more abundant bliss receive,
And larger draughts of heaven :
Our confidence fill up
Till faith improves to sight ;
And then we lose both faith and hope
In love's supreme delight.

2121. *This is My commandment, That ye love one, &c.*—xv. 12.

JESUS, that new command of Thine
I languish to obey :
The zeal of charity Divine
Into my heart convey,
That in and for my God alone
I may embrace, esteem,
And after Thee my life lay down,
The brethren to redeem.

2122. *Greater love hath no man than this, &c.*—xv. 13.

GREATER love is not in man,
But greater is in God ;
Life for sinners to regain
Jehovah sheds His blood,
Gives Himself a sacrifice,
His own most precious blood expends,
Freely for His foes He dies,
And turns them into friends.

2123. *Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I, &c.*—xv. 14.

WHO can the grace explain ?
My God doth condescend
To call a worm, a man,
A sinful man His friend !

If answering His designs
With a true heart and free,
I do what He enjoins,
And doth Himself in me.

2124. *Henceforth I call you not servants; for, &c.*—xv. 15.

No longer held by servile fear,
Thy pleasure we fulfil,
And principled with love sincere
Delight to do Thy will:
Thy will concerning us we know,
That daily crucified
Blameless we in Thy steps should go
To triumph at Thy side.

2125. *I have called you friends.*— xv. 15.

To be Thy ministers above
Seraphic flames aspire,
But we by Thy redeeming love
We are exalted higher;
Our thoughts and praises it transcends
The love on men bestow'd;
We are the favourites and friends,
The bosom-friends of God.

2126. *All things that I have heard of My Father, &c.*—xv. 15.

Thy friends instructed are by Thee,
Jehovah's only Son,
The secrets of eternity
Are to Thy church made known;
The unction doth in us abide,
In all through grace forgiven,
The Spirit is our inward guide,
And leads our souls to heaven.

2127. *Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you.*—xv. 16.

Thee we never could have chose,
Dead in sins and trespasses:

But Thou hast redeem'd Thy foes,
Bought the universal peace,
That all our ransom'd race might prove
The sweetness of electing love.

2128. *And ordained you, that ye should go, &c.*—xv. 16.

JESUS, dost Thou not ordain
Us to go, and fruit to bear,
Fruit that always shall remain,
Souls that may Thy praise declare?
Sinners whom for Thee we win
Rescue them and still defend,
From the world, and hell, and sin
Save, and save them to the end.

2129. *That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in, &c.*—xv. 16.

FATHER, in the powerful name
Of Thy well-beloved Son
Hear us, who the promise claim,
Keep us, till our work is done,
Give the faith to persevere,
Give the patience to endure,
Hide our life till Christ appear;
Then our full reward is sure.

2130. *These things I command you, that ye love one, &c.*—xv. 17.

1 OBEDIENT to our Lord's command,
Join every heart and every hand
Of those who Jesus know
To' advance the kingdom of His grace,
To publish our Redeemer's praise,
And spread His love below.

2 O were we in Thy Spirit join'd!
One heart, one judgment, and one mind
To all Thy labourers give:

Unite us closer, Lord, to Thee,
That all may in Thy name agree,
And to Thy glory live:

3 That all may think and speak the same,
Jointly our common Lord proclaim,
Our mission fully prove,
Determined Thee alone to know,
And to Thy church the pattern show
Of pure primeval love.

2131. *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me, &c.*—xv. 18.

THIS is our consolation, Lord,
The world's fierce enmity
We bear, assured it first abhorr'd
And persecuted Thee:
Thy friends in every age and place
Are hated by Thy foe;
But if the scandal we embrace,
We shall the glory know.

2132. *If ye were of the world, the world would love, &c.*—xv. 19.

1 THE hatred of our ancient foe
Contentedly we bear,
And are not of the world we know,
And this themselves declare:
Their maxims we no more receive
As by their spirit led,
But faithfully to Jesus cleave,
And suffer with our Head.

2 As evil when they cast us out
And shun our company,
They will not suffer us to doubt
If we belong to Thee:
Saviour, whom they reject, disdain,
We find Thou dost approve,

And thus another mark obtain
Of Thine electing love.

2133. *Remember the word that I said unto you, &c.*—xv. 20.

1 Reason and sense would fain forget
The cross-imposing word,
The servant is not more discreet,
Or greater than the Lord:
If Christ they persecuted here,
Their malice will pursue
His every saint and minister,
As sure as God is true.

2 In pagan times it might be so
The prudent world allow,
"But all the true religion know,
But all are Christians now."
Christians in name, they vex and grieve
They persecute and kill
The men that would in Jesus live;
And all His words fulfil.

3 Because the truth they cannot bear
They hate its witnesses,
And all who live the gospel, share
The sanctified distress;
They will not, Lord, to Thine agree,
Who Satan's works approve,
And till they cease from hating Thee
Thy church they cannot love.

2134. *But all these things will they do unto you, &c.*—xv. 21.

1 The world our unrelenting foe,
May false pretences make,
But persecute Thy flock, we know,
And hate us for Thy sake:

Because our God they have not known,
They treat us with despite,
And by their cruel judgments, own
Our lives are in the right.

2 Yet will we not the world upbraid,
The infidels condemn :
Grace only hath the difference made
Betwixt our souls and them :
The grace which we may lose by pride,
May be on them bestow'd,
And when they feel Thy blood applied,
They know the pardoning God.

2135. *If I had not come and spoken unto them, &c.*—xv. 22.

1 HADST Thou not come to *Adam's* race,
And call'd them all to turn and live,
Offer'd Thy true sufficient grace
With power the pardon to receive,
They might have charged their death on Thee,
As reprobate by Thy decree.

2 But who Thy heavenly doctrine hear,
And view the wonders of Thy power,
Yet will not their Creator fear,
Or Thee their Saviour-God adore,
They must their wilful folly own,
Undone ; but by themselves undone.

3 No colour for their sin they have,
Their stubborn infidelity :
Thou didst declare Thy will to save,
They will not Thy salvation see,
But from Thine arms of mercy fly,
And die, because resolved to die.

2136. *If I had not done among them the works, &c.*—xv. 24.

1 WHO to those gracious words of Thine
Might sinless their assent refuse,
Soon as they saw Thy works Divine,
Condemn'd and left without excuse,
Their wilful unbelief they show'd,
And justly perish'd in their blood.

2 The world may thus our words deny,
Who pardon, or perfection claim;
But when our actions testify,
When all our lives declare the same,
They must the' authentic truth receive,
They must Thy witnesses believe.

2137. *They hated Me without a cause.*—xv. 25.

1 Is there such dire malignity
And black ingratitude in man?
Such sin Satanical in me?
With grief and shame I own, I can
Vilest of fiends incarnate prove,
And hate a God whose name is Love.

2 My mind is hatred against God,
My life rebellion and despite
To Thee, who hast on me bestow'd
Thy Son, Thy soul's supreme delight,
Thus to remove my enmity
As causeless, as Thy love for me.

2138. *The Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the, &c.*—xv. 26.

SPIRIT of truth, the Comforter,
Proceeding from the Father's throne,
Come, and Thine inward witness bear
Of Jesus, His eternal Son;

Him, the great uncreated Word,
Give me the God supreme to call,
Essence, I AM, Jehovah, Lord,
My God, who made, and died for all.

2139 *And ye also shall bear witness, because ye, &c.*—xv. 27.

THY weak disciple I,
Jesus, for years have been :
Thee let me testify
The Truth, that frees from sin,
The Wisdom from above,
The Life to mortals given,
The Power of perfect Love,
The Way to God in heaven.

CHAPTER XVI.

2140. *These things have I spoken unto you, &c.*—xvi. 1.

1 YE of the Christian sect,
By faith to Jesus join'd,
No mercy or remorse expect,
No justice from mankind :
The world in every age
Their hate of Christ express,
And vent their anti-Christian rage
Against His witnesses.

2 But nothing shall offend,
Or turn out of the way
You that on Jesu's word depend,
And on His promise stay ;

Forewarn'd, without surprise,
Without concern or fear,
Ye see the threatening storm arise,
Ye see your Saviour near.

3 Ye scorn the tyrants' frown,
And to their wrongs submit,
And let them spurn and tread you down
As clay beneath their feet:
Beneath their rage ye fall
The victory to obtain,
All things endure, to conquer all,
And die with Christ to reign.

2141. *They shall put you out of the synagogues, &c.*—xvi. 2.

1 SAVIOUR the time is come,
And lo, as Thou hast said,
The spirit of persecuting *Rome*
Throughout the earth is spread.
With blind religious zeal
The formalists agree
Out of their churches to expel
The men that cleave to Thee.

2 Yet while Thou dost restrain
Their anger's last excess,
They dare not light their fires again,
Our numbers to increase:
Aware, that by our death
Thy church would growth receive,
They gnaw their tongues, and gnash their teeth.
And suffer us to live.

2142. *These things will they do unto you, because, &c.*—xvi. 3.

1 THE world, who know not God,
Must hate the men that do,

And live by faith in Jesu's blood,
And Jesu's tempers show :
And if the sons of night
Usurp the Christian name,
They still abhor the sons of light,
In every age the same.

2 Their ignorance, we find
The ground of enmity,
That hatred of the carnal mind
Against Thy church and Thee :
But warn'd by Thee our Lord,
We suffer all their ill,
Who every day deny Thy word,
And every day fulfil.

2143. *But these things have I told you, that when, &c.*—xvi 4.

1 THE long-predicted things
Fulfill'd we daily find,
And bless the' accomplishment which brings
Thy sayings to our mind :
We thus our strength renew,
And more than conquerors prove,
Assured, O God, that Thou art true,
That Thou art Power and Love.

2 Opposed by earth and hell,
Their impotence we see,
The' infernal gates cannot prevail
Against Thy church and Thee :
The world we see o'erthrown,
The' accusing fiend subdued,
Triumphant through Thy word alone
Thy Spirit and Thy blood.

2144. *And these things I said not unto you, &c.*—xvi. 4.

1 CHRIST the times and seasons knows
His counsels wise to give,
Grace He then on us bestows
His sayings to receive:
First His Godhead He reveals,
The Man who suffer'd in our stead
Then our sympathy foretells,
Our dying with our Head.

2 Followers of the Crucified,
His grace almighty prove,
First believe for you He died
And trust His faithful love:
Then expect the great distress,
Crush'd by the persecutor's power,
Jesu's patient mind possess,
And face the fiery hour.

2145. *But now I go My way to Him that sent Me, &c.*—xvi. 5.

1 WITH the goods and ills below
Entirely occupied,
Nothing we desire to know,
We nothing seek beside:
Till Thou kindly dost rebuke
Our careless infidelity;
Then to things unseen we look,
And ask, O Lord, for Thee.

2 Present with Thy people still,
And in Thy word Thou art,
Dost Thy precious Self reveal
To every praying heart;

While we faithfully inquire,
Thou dost our doubts and griefs remove.
God that answerest by fire,
The fire of heavenly love!

2146. *But because I have said these things unto you, &c.*—xvi. 6.

1 THE love of Jesu's cross how rare!
We sadden its approach to see,
Afraid His sacred load to bear,
And trace His steps to *Calvary:*
Our dread to lose the goods below,
With fame, or friends, or ease, to part,
O'erwhelms the faithless soul with woe,
And fills with grief the selfish heart.

2 Sorrow may enter and remain;
A Christian heart it should not fill:
Saviour, in us it cannot reign,
Who bow submissive to Thy will:
Our faith and hope superior rise
And keep the struggling evil down,
Till fully saved we grasp the prize,
And through Thy cross obtain Thy crown.

2147. *If I go not away, the Comforter will not come.*—xvi. 7.

CAN I gain by losing Thee?
Yes, if so my state require,
If mine own infirmity
Force Thee, Saviour, to retire:
For when I Thy absence mourn,
Poor with poverty Divine,
Then the Comforter's return
Speaks my Lord for ever mine.

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2148. *When He is come, He will convince the world, &c.*—xvi. 8.

1 SPIRIT of truth, from Jesus come,
Accomplishing His word,
Smite the sinners that presume
In vain to call Him Lord:
Thou who only canst convince
The world and me of unbelief,
Show the root of all my sins,
And fill my heart with grief.

2 Give me now myself to know
An helpless infidel,
Stranger to that God below
Who did my sorrows feel:
Not one grain of faith have I,
Till Thou reveal the Saviour God,
Jesu's death for me apply,
And wash me in His blood.

2149.

1 HOLY GHOST, convince my heart
Of Jesu's righteousness,
Counted just through His desert,
If I am saved by grace:
God appeased in Christ declare,
Our righteous Advocate above,
Speak in me His answer'd prayer,
And seal His dying love.

2 Open now my spirit's eyes
The' Invisible to see,
Christ the just, above the skies
Demanding life for me:
While His righteousness I claim,
Thyself demonstrate me forgiven,
Justified in Jesu's name,
And register'd in heaven.

2150.

1 SPIRIT of true holiness,
Thy last great work fulfil,
In my sinless soul express
The Father's righteous will ;
With Thy heavenly nature come
And witness Christ in me reveal'd,
Satan and his works to doom,
And speak their ruin seal'd.

2 Cast the' usurper from his throne,
And utterly destroy,
Let Thy kingdom stand alone
In holy peace and joy ;
Joy which none can take away,
Peace that never shall remove,
Holiness without alloy,
And pure millennial love.

2151. *I have yet many things to say unto you, &c.*—xvi. 12.

1 WITH milk Thou dost the infants feed,
Meat to the strong believers give,
In season due, as each hath need
As each is able to receive ;
Thou sow'st the seeds of truth sublime
In the dark heart of feeble man,
Thou know'st Thine own appointed time,
Thine own mysterious work to' explain.

2 Those many things at first unknown,
Thy Spirit shows us where to find
Not by tradition handed down,
By men corrupt, deceitful, blind :
The *acts* by Thine apostles wrought
Repeating on our hearts He seals,
The truths in their *epistles* taught,
And in the mystic book reveals.

2152. *He shall take of Mine, and shall show* it *unto you.*—xvi. 15.

HOLY GHOST, by Him bestow'd
Who suffer'd on the tree,
Take of my Redeemer's blood,
And show it unto me:
Witness with the blood Thou art,
Apply it to this soul of mine,
Now assure my sprinkled heart
It is the blood Divine.

2153. *Ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall, &c.*—xvi. 20.

MASTER, I bow to Thy decree,
Sorrowful I am like Thee,
And keep the blessing given,
Happy an absent God to mourn,
But happier still, when Thy return
Shall bring the joys of heaven.

2154. *I will see you again.*—xvi. 22.

RETURN, most gracious Lord, return,
Our hearts' supreme delight!
Our hearts, that in Thine absence mourn
Shall triumph in Thy sight;
With Thee we shall a joy obtain
Which none can take away,
For when Thou show'st Thyself again
Thou wilt for ever stay.

2155. *Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My, &c.*—xvi. 23.

1 FATHER, I ask in Jesus' name,
Most unworthy as I am
Thy blessing to receive;
Yet for my Saviour's sake alone
Thine only well-beloved Son
Thou wilt Thy Spirit give.

2 I have no right to ask Thy love,
But through Him who prays above
My Advocate with Thee,
Whose Spirit breathes into my breast
Desires which cannot be express'd,
And groans for grace in me.

3 Thou know'st my Mediator's mind,
Hear'st the Friend of all mankind
Who pleads before Thy throne,
The thing deserved by Jesus grant,
The only thing on earth I want,
And make Thy goodness known.

4 The Gift unspeakable Thou art,
Give Thyself into my heart
Mysterious One in Three,
And speak me by Thy presence seal'd,
With Father, Son, and Spirit fill'd
To all eternity.

2156. *Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name, &c.*—xvi. 24.

1 NOTHING have we ask'd of Thee,
Compared with what we want,
With Thy large benignity,
And readiness to grant:
Thou hast promised to bestow
Whate'er we in Thy name require:
Give us then Thyself to know,
Fulfil Thine own desire.

2 Power to pray and never cease
We in Thy name request,
Peace, inviolable peace,
And everlasting rest,

Plenitude of joy and love,
Till faith fill'd up can hold no more:
Then we join the hosts above,
And face to face adore.

2157. *At that day ye shall ask in My name, &c.*—xvi. 26.

1 SAVIOUR, Thou need'st not say
Thou wilt the Father pray:
More than words Thy kindness prove,
Showers of never-ceasing grace
Show that Thou art heard above,
Advocate for all our race.

2 Thy prayer the world sustains,
And keeps from hellish pains:
Blessings on the saints it sheds,
Living streams of righteousness,
Answers all Thy people's needs,
Fills their hearts with power and peace.

3 Thy prayer I daily feel
Seal'd with Thy Spirit's seal:
Yes, the Comforter I find
Helping mine infirmity,
Bringing all Thy words to mind,
Witnessing Thy love for me.

4 Through Him empower'd I am
To ask in Jesus' name:
Father, save for Jesus' sake
Thine, who would continue Thine,
Till I yield my spirit back,
Purchase dear of blood Divine.

2158. *For the Father Himself loveth you, because, &c.*—xvi. 27.

1 FATHER of Christ our Saviour,
Thou hast Thy mercy show'd,

Received us into favour,
And shed Thy love abroad :
Thou only didst discover,
Jehovah from above ;
And Him our heavenly Lover
We in Thy Spirit love.

2 Before the world's foundation
He from Thy bosom came,
The' eternal generation
Of Jesus we proclaim :
And every true believer
Thou for Thy child dost own,
And lovest us for ever,
As members of Thy Son.

2159. *I came forth from the Father, and am come, &c.*—xvi. 28.

1 O Jesus, we adore Thee!
From all eternity,
There was no God before Thee ;
There is no God but Thee :
Thee by Thine incarnation
Made manifest below,
The God of our salvation
The Son of Man we know.

2 Thy days of flesh are ended,
And to Thy Father's breast
Thou art again ascended,
In Thy own joy to rest :
Thy sanctifying Spirit
Thou wilt to us send down,
And we shall soon inherit
Thine everlasting throne.

2160. *Lo, now speakest Thou plainly, and, &c.*—xvi. 29, 30.

1 When Jesus imparts
The truth to our hearts,
And His sayings explains,
Not a shadow of doubt in our spirit remains;
The truth we confess,
The Interpreter bless,
Who disperses the night,
And dwell with our Lord in a region of light.

2 The' omniscient Lord
Thou unfoldest Thy word,
And preventing my prayer
Thou art pleased Thy unsearchable grace to declare:
Thy grace I receive
And with comfort believe,
And am sure Thou art He
Who from heaven came down to inhabit in me.

2161. *Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? &c.*—xvi. 31, 32.

1 Who doth indeed believe
And now in Christ stands fast,
May fondly his own soul deceive,
And dream the danger pass'd;
May ignorantly think
He now has conquer'd all,
And boast secure on ruin's brink,
That he can never fall.

2 His consolation sweet
If Christ bestows on me,
It makes me ready to forget
My own infirmity;
Unless my Saviour near
A second grace impart,

And give me constantly to fear
This base unfaithful heart.

3 Ungrateful as I am
Thy favours I receive,
But call'd to suffer for Thy name
My gracious Master leave :
I dread to drink Thy cup,
When shame and pain are nigh,
Refuse to take Thy burden up,
And on Thy cross to die.

4 Rejecting Thy distress
I oft have Thee forsook :
But all my past unfaithfulness
Thou on Thyself hast took,
Hast bought for me the power,
The humble constancy,
To stand in every future hour
And live, and die with Thee.

2162. *Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.*—xvi. 32.

1 A SOUL by man forsaken
May hang upon Thy cross,
For Thou hast undertaken
The friendless sinner's cause;
His comfort in affliction
That Thou regard'st Thine own,
And through Thy dereliction
He dwells with God alone.

2 My Lord by all deserted
Remembers the forlorn,
Binds up the broken-hearted,
And blesses those that mourn :

And if in my temptation
Thou dost my soul attend,
I'll bear the tribulation
Which but with life shall end.

2163. *These things I have spoken unto you, that, &c.*—xvi. 33.

Yes, the promised tribulation,
Saviour, in the world we find,
Find the pledge of sure salvation
In a patient, cheerful mind;
We on all our foes shall trample,
Sharers of Thy victory,
Followers of Thy great example,
Conquerors of the world through Thee.

2164.

1 Away with our fears!
The' Almighty appears,
Our Captain and Head!
We are all to infallible victory led:
He hath singly subdued
The world with their god,
And he bids us "Pursue,"
And He speaks to our hearts, "I have conquer'd for you."

2 In His Spirit alone
We are bold to go on,
His victory share,
And by patience o'ercome the afflictions we bear;
No storms of distress
Can ruffle our peace,
While we aim at the prize,
And on Jesus's cross to His kingdom arise.

3 Our implacable foe
We daily o'erthrow,
To the evils submit,
And the goods upon earth we tread under our feet :
With Jesus endure,
Till for glory mature
Our souls we resign,
And ascend to partake of the triumph Divine.

CHAPTER XVII.

2165. *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His, &c.*—xvii. 1.

1 HIMSELF with lifted hands and eyes,
The great vicarious Sacrifice
He offers up for all our race,
Our faithful merciful High-Priest
To God presenting His request,
For every child of *Adam* prays.

2 First for the twelve He intercedes,
And then for all believers pleads,
And then for all the ransom'd kind,
That seeing how the Christians live,
The world may faithfully receive
And every soul *his* Saviour find.

2166. *Glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may, &c.*—xvii. 1.

1 WHEN full four thousand years are pass'd,
The destined hour arrives at last
For God to glorify His Son :
Again the Father's arms receive
In His own joy with Him to live
The Partner of His heavenly throne.

2 Again the' angelic hosts adore
Their Maker, God, who was before
Angel or man began to be ;
Who now resumes His sovereign right,
Brightness of uncreated Light,
I AM from all eternity.

3 Saviour and Prince enthroned on high,
Thou dost Thy Father glorify,
His majesty on earth display
Who sent Thee from His bosom down,
To make His love and justice known,
The universal debt to pay.

4 Thou dost His name to men declare,
And stamp us with the character,
The truth and holiness Divine ;
The depths of Deity reveal,
Thy members with Thy Spirit seal,
That God in all His saints may shine.

2167. *As Thou hast given Him power over all, &c.*—xvii. 2.

1 FULL power to Thee Thy Father gave,
Supreme authority to save
Whoe'er their proffer'd Lord embrace :
All flesh is now by purchase Thine,
Who didst Thy precious life resign
To ransom the whole fallen race.

2 Thou wouldst on every soul bestow
The faith through which Thy people know
Eternal life on earth reveal'd :
Thou dost Thy quickening Spirit give
To all who lovingly believe,
And find their blood-bought pardon seal'd.

2168. *This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, &c.*—xvii. 3.

In peace Divine unspeakable
The' angelic happiness we feel,
  The life enjoy'd by saints above,
If Thou, His co-eternal Son
The Father in Thyself make known
  And tell our hearts that God is love :
Soon as Thou dost Thy Spirit impart,
The one true God we know Thou art,
  Our Prophet, Priest, and King receive,
Sent to restore our paradise,
With Thee we mount above the skies,
  With Thee even now in heaven we live.

2169. *I have glorified Thee on the earth : I have, &c.*—xvii. 4.

Thou laid'st on earth the steadfast base
On which Thou dost Thy kingdom raise,
  Thy church to fill the realms above;
Thou hast with all His will complied,
And through Thy passion glorified
  The righteous God of truth and love.
Thou hast Thy ministry fulfill'd,
Thy faithful testimony seal'd,
  Finish'd the work Thy Father gave,
Then, when Thou didst incline Thine head,
A voluntary Victim bleed,
  And die Thyself the world to save.

2170. *And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with, &c.*—xvii. 5.

Jesus, Thy prayer is answer'd now,
The Man, Jehovah's Fellow Thou
  And seated on Thy Father's throne,

Bright Effluence of the light Divine,
Thou dost in Thy own glory shine
From all eternity Thy own:
The Man who did our world redeem
Is clothed with majesty supreme,
Thy body now is glorified;
Thou wear'st Thy mediatorial crown,
That we may in Thy right sit down,
And reign exalted at Thy side.

2171. *I have manifested Thy name unto the men, &c.*—xvii. 6.

WHOM first to Thee Thy Father gave
On them Thy present power to save,
Jesus, Thou didst in mercy show;
His name, His nature, and His mind,
Benevolent to all mankind
Thou bad'st Thy twelve apostles know:
His own and *Abraham's* progeny
The men whom He bestow'd on Thee
Redeeming from the world and sin,
With Thine adopting Spirit bless'd
Their gracious Father they confess'd,
And kept Thy word which spoke them clean.

2172. *Now they have known that all things, &c.*—xvii. 7, 8.

IN order foremost of the Three,
Fountain of Life and Deity,
Thy Father, with the twelve, we own;
Jesus by highest heaven adored,
Thy mission, miracles, and word,
Thy Godhead is from Him alone:
Thy all Thou didst from God receive:
Thou didst to Thine apostles give
His words through Thy internal grace:

They knew Thee then, His only Son
Sent from the everlasting throne
To save our whole apostate race.

2173. *I pray for them : I pray not for the world, &c.*—xvii. 9.

NOT for the world of sinners dead,
Not for the living faithful seed,
As yet the common Saviour prays :
The twelve, His most peculiar care,
First mention'd in His final prayer,
Are first establish'd by His grace :
Them for their office high design'd,
Elected out of all mankind,
To Thee by Love Paternal given,
Jesus, Thy prayer doth first secure,
And make Thy church's pillars sure,
And seal them favourites of heaven.

2174 *And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are, &c.* —xvii. 10.

JESUS, Jehovah's equal Son,
Thou and Thy Father are but one,
Thine interests are with His the same,
Distinction none of mine and thine ;
And hence the messengers Divine
Were all apostles of the Lamb.
Thy power throughout their lives was seen ;
Superior to the power of men
It proved the Source from which it flow'd,
When in Thy name the sick they heal'd,
The dead they raised, the fiends expell'd
And thus Thy sovereign Godhead show'd.

2175. *And now I am no more in the world, but, &c.*—xvii. 11.

WHILE Jesus doth to heaven ascend,
He asks His Father to defend
The little flock He leaves below ;

Dependent upon God He prays
As man ; as God confers the grace
His own eternal birth to show,
The constant need of prayer to' explain,
Through which we sure support obtain
In every conflict and distress ;
And bless'd with final victory,
Holy, and true, and good, to Thee
Ascribe the everlasting praise.

2176. *Holy Father, keep through Thine own name, &c.*—xvii. 11.

God heard the acceptable prayer
When Jesus to His Father's care
Did His first family bequeath :
Jehovah's name became their tower,
He magnified His saving power
And made them faithful unto death :
His holiness did theirs secure,
And kept from all pollution pure,
His unity preserved them one,
Till conquerors through His faithful love
They found their place prepared above,
And join'd their Saviour on His throne.

2177. *While I was with them in the world, I kept, &c.*—xvii. 12.

1 The Shepherd good rejoiced to keep,
While in the world, His number'd sheep,
The sheep His Father had bestow'd :
He kept them in His Father's name,
The power and goodness to proclaim
The truth and faithfulness of God ;
Jesus to Thee the twelve were given,
Their names were all inscribed in heaven ;
Yet *Judas* by transgression fell,

His name was blotted from Thy book,
When his own mercies he forsook,
And challenged his own place in hell.

2 That none of Thine elect may boast,
One of the chosen twelve was lost,
He made himself perdition's son;
For whom Thou hadst a throne design'd,
He sold the Saviour of mankind,
And forfeited his promised crown:
Faithful he might have proved to Thee,
But fell from his integrity
By no decree of Thine compell'd;
He cast Thy slighted grace away,
Gave himself up, the tempter's prey,
And thus his own destruction seal'd.

2178. *And now come I to Thee; and these things, &c.*—xvii. 13.

While yet Thou livedst a Man of woe,
Thy latest words of grace below
Thou didst to Thy disciples leave,
That soon recalling them to mind
They might Thy power and Spirit find,
And consolation strong receive:
Thee when they saw no longer here,
They felt the' indwelling Comforter
Accomplishing Thy whole design,
Granted they found Thy prayer and seal'd,
With all Thy joy and Spirit fill'd,
With all the plenitude Divine.

2179. *I have given them Thy word; and the world, &c.*—xvii. 14.

Who first received the' engrafted word,
Thy followers by the world abhorr'd,
By patience and obedience show'd

The faith which through Thy sayings came,
And gloried in their Master's shame
  Undaunted confessors of God:
Thy marks were in their bodies seen:
The filth and offscouring of men
  Thy badge and daily cross they bore.
And still whoe'er belong to Thee
Detested by the world must be,
  Till time and sin shall be no more.

2180. *I pray not that Thou shouldest take them, &c.*—xvii. 15.

THY members must their trial take
And suffer, Saviour, for Thy sake,
  And to Thy will submit their own,
The general scorn and hate abide,
Dead to the world and crucified,
  Till all their work on earth is done:
The earliest preachers of Thy love
Thou wouldst not Lord from earth remove:
  Thy presence from the evil pure
Preserved, and kept them in the flame,
Till out of great distress they came,
  And made their crown by sufferings sure.

2181. *They are not of the world, even as I am, &c.*—xvii. 16.

PARTAKERS of Thy ministry,
The men who still are sent by Thee
  Are men, not of the world but God;
They all its vain desires deny,
Against its evils testify,
  And tread the path their Pattern trod:
Thy mind and Spirit they possess,
The tempers of their Lord express,
  Acquainted with Thy sorrows live,

Themselves of no repute they make,
And poor becoming for Thy sake,
Thy cup in life and death receive.

2182. *Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy, &c.*—xvii. 17.
THAT Spirit pure of truth and love,
That sacred unction from above
Did Thy first messengers ordain;
It set them for Thyself apart,
Reveal'd Thy word to every heart,
And cleansed their lives from every stain:
Still by the gospel word applied,
Thy ministers are sanctified,
The truth they lovingly receive,
It saves their souls and sets them free;
And consecrated, Lord, to Thee,
Thy holy word they preach and live.

2183. *As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even, &c.*—xvii. 18.
AMBASSADOR of the Most-High
Thy Father sent Thee from the sky
To make His truth and mercy known;
And every chosen instrument
By Thee into the world is sent,
To carry Thy great business on;
They of Thy work obtain a part,
And labouring sinners to convert,
Their ministerial task fulfil,
Ready their lives to sacrifice
(That precious souls may reach the skies)
And with their blood the record seal.

2184. *And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, &c.*—xvii. 19.
JESUS, was ever love like Thine!
Victim, immaculate, Divine!
Self-offer'd in the sinner's place,

For Thine elect apostles slain,
For all who their commission gain,
For every child of *Adam's* race!
We through Thy death the power receive,
The sanctifying truth believe,
Partakers of Thy sacrifice;
Bodies and souls present to God,
With Thine all-patient mind endow'd,
And to Thy heavenly kingdom rise.

2185. *Neither pray I for these alone, but for the, &c.*—xvii. 20.

1 FAITHFUL and merciful High-Priest,
Supreme in power, and love Divine,
While underneath Thy wings we rest,
We in Thine intercession join;
Saviour, Thou dost Thy dying care
To every age alike extend,
And by the virtue of Thy prayer
Thy church is kept till time shall end.

2 Faith through the apostolic word,
The faith of Thine elect we feel:
The Holy Ghost my God and Lord
Thee in my heart doth now reveal;
I know my interest in Thy blood,
My pardon seal'd I now receive,
Thy death hath brought my soul to God,
And trusting in Thy death I live.

2186. *That they all may be one: as Thou, Father, &c.*—xvii. 21.

WHAT is that unity?
Can we be one in Thee,
As Thou the' eternal Son
Art with the Father one?
Then shall we know, when once we feel
The grace incomprehensible.

2187.

1 JESUS Thee the Head we own,
The Saviour of mankind :
Thou of twain hast made us one,
Hast *Jews* and *Gentiles* join'd ;
Both Thy mystic body are,
In Thee the scatter'd members meet :
Through Thine all-prevailing prayer
Our harmony complete.

2 By one Spirit inspired and led
We to each other cleave,
Nourish'd with immortal Bread
The life of faith we live :
Call'd to purity and peace
The fellowship of saints we prove
In the bond of perfectness,
And unity of love.

3 In Thy heavenly Father one,
We all His children are,
Of Thy flesh and of Thy bone
Thy holy nature share ;
All into Thy Spirit drink,
All baptized into Thy name
One in heart and mind, we think,
And act, and speak, the same.

4 Closer knit to God and Thee
Jesus in us make known
All the hidden mystery,
The Holy Three in One :
Thus convinced the world shall feel
Thy Father's gracious will and mind,
Know He sent Thee down to dwell
In us, and all mankind.

2188. *The glory which Thou gavest Me I have, &c.*—xvii. 22.

THE glory of God's only Son
In all His sons doth shine,
A greatness to the world unknown,
A majesty Divine !

2189.

1 WHAT to Thee Thy Father gave
Thou dost on man bestow,
Souls re-born Thy Spirit have,
Thy glorious image show,
Stamp'd with real holiness,
Partakers of Thy life, they shine,
All Thy members, Lord, express
The unity Divine.

2 One, though not the same, with Thee,
And each with each they are,
The Divine plurality
And simple nature share :
In Thy permanent abode
When Father, Son, and Spirit meet,
Transcript of the triune God
Thy church is all complete.

2190. *I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may, &c.*—xvii. 23.

1 JESUS, with Thy Father come,
And bring our inward Guide,
Make our hearts Thy humble home,
And in Thine house abide,
Show us with Thy presence fill'd,
Fill'd with glory from Thy throne,
Wholly sanctified, and seal'd,
And perfected in one.

2 Thus Thy Father's kind intent
Let the whole world perceive,
Know He from His bosom sent
His Son, that all may live ;
Sent Thee every soul to bless,
That in Thy loving Spirit join'd
All may with one mouth confess
The Saviour of mankind.

3 By the miracle of grace
Bring every outcast in,
Show to all our ransom'd race
The power that saves from sin ;
All our ransom'd race convert,
That every child of man may prove
Thee residing in his heart,
And know that God is love.

4 God in Christ is love to me,
He loves me for Thy sake,
Loves us all as part of Thee
Who didst our nature take :
Wills our God that all should live,
Through faith in Thee His favourite Son,
Should Thy proffer'd joy receive,
And triumph on Thy throne.

2291. *Father, I will that they also, whom Thou, &c.*—xvii. 24.

1 LORD, Thy testamental will
Is ratified by God,
Seal'd by Thy own Spirit's seal,
And written in Thy blood :
Trusting, sharing in Thy death,
To us Thy life shall all be given,
Us to whom Thou dost bequeath
The' inheritance of heaven.

2 As His only Son and Heir
Thou challengest Thine own,
Askest that Thy church may share
Thine everlasting throne;
Praying in Thy proper right,
Thou dost for us demand the grace,
The beatifying sight
Of Thy own glorious face.

3 Head and members, Christ entire
We must together be,
In the bosom of Thy Sire,
And glorified with Thee:
Thee before the world began,
And us He did as Thine approve,
Chosen in the Son of Man
By His eternal love.

2192. *O righteous Father, the world hath not, &c.*—xvii. 25.

1 FATHER of our gracious Lord,
Thy righteousness we own;
By the' angelic host adored,
And by Thy children known,
Hidden from the world Thou art,
Till humbly they Thy Son receive;
Then they find Him in their heart,
And one with God they live.

2 We have surely found Him here,
Sent in His saints to dwell,
Faith's almighty Finisher
Thy justice to reveal:
Justice now confers the prize,
Deserved and purchased by Thy Son:
Justice wills that we should rise,
His members to His throne.

2193. *And I have declared unto them Thy name, &c.*—xvii. 26.

1 CHRIST our Head and heavenly Lord,
Thou only canst proclaim
By Thine own inspoken word
Thy heavenly Father's name :
Thou to us hast made it known,
His Power and Wisdom from above,
Then His Righteousness we own,
His Truth, and Life, and Love.

2 Thou His name unspeakable
Wilt farther yet declare,
Till we all His nature feel,
And all His impress bear,
Till, complete in holiness
We comprehend the mystery,
Fill'd with all His love and grace,
For ever fill'd with Thee.

3 Come Thou holy One of God,
And by that Spirit Divine
Shed in all our hearts abroad
Thy Father's love and Thine :
Fit us for the blissful sight,
And when Thou hast Thy saints prepared,
Glory on our foreheads write,
Thyself our full Reward.

[The Hymns that follow were composed on those verses of this chapter which are specified at the head of each respectively. As the Author has, in the hitherto unpublished Hymns, confined himself to another metre down to the end of verse 19, it has been thought better to place these by themselves, especially as the several topics are treated here with a more strictly personal reference.]

2194. *Verses* 2, 3.

FULNESS of power the world to save
Thy Father hath conferr'd on Thee,
All flesh He to Thy merit gave,
And Thou hast proved Thy power on me;
Thou hast to me the Father show'd,
Thine everlasting Spirit given:
And lo, I live the life of God,
I live on earth the life of heaven!

2195. *Verse* 6.

REDEEM'D by Thine electing love,
And separate from the world I am,
Endow'd with wisdom from above
I know the great Jehovah's name;
Thou hast the Deity declared,
His nature to my soul reveal'd;
And soon in me, Thy death's reward.
Thy sayings shall be all fulfill'd.

2196. *Verse* 7.

GOOD in myself whereon to ground
My hopes of bliss, I seek no more,
Cause of all good in creatures found
Thy grace, O Father, I adore:
Instructed by Thy humble Son,
(Thy Son from all eternity)
The Fountain of perfection own
The whole of excellence in Thee.

2197. *Verse* 8.

JESUS, in whom I now believe,
The Author of my faith Thou art,
The words Thou didst from God receive
Thy Spirit hath spoke them to my heart:

By these convinced I surely know
Thou art His co-eternal Son,
Who sent Thee down to die below,
And bring His rebels to His throne.

2198. *Verse* 9.

INSPIRING me with faith Divine
Thou Lord out of the world hast took,
Hast pray'd for this weak soul of mine;
And for Thy prayer's return I look:
Thy prayer's return I daily find,
Unlike the world of sinners live
To Thee and to Thy people join'd
Till all Thy fulness I receive.

2199. *Verse* 10.

JESUS Thy Father's child I am,
Who made me by Thy powerful word;
Me for Thine own vouchsafe to claim,
The work, the purchase of my Lord:
Thou didst redeem me by Thy blood,
That Thee my soul may glorify,
And triumph in a dying God,
And spread Thy praise through earth and sky.

2200. *Verse* 11.

1 THY painful days of flesh are o'er,
Redeemer of our fallen race,
We see Thee Lord, on earth no more,
Nor hear Thy words of truth and grace:
But we Thy followers are constrain'd
As in the midst of wolves to dwell,
Still in an evil world detain'd,
And urged by all the hosts of hell.

2 Jesus our Head to heaven is gone
But we are in the world distress'd;

Father respect Thy praying Son,
And grant His prevalent request;
Preserve us pure from sinful blame,
From every spot and wrinkle free,
And keep through Thine almighty name
United each to each in Thee.

2201. *Verse* 15.

TAUGHT by our Lord we will not pray
To be out of the world removed,
But keep us in our evil day
Till patient faith is fully proved:
From sin, the world, and Satan's snare
The members of Thy Son defend,
Till all Thy character we bear,
And grace matured in glory end.

2202. *Verse* 17.

THROUGH the pure evangelic word
Thine image, Lord, on us impress,
And speak us after God restored
In true internal holiness;
Thy word the channel of Thy love
Through meek and patient faith apply,
And fit us for the joys above,
And take us spotless to the sky.

CHAPTER XVIII.

2203. *Jesus...went forth with His disciples over the, &c.*—xviii. 1.

THE emblem had in trembling haste
The brook with his companions pass'd,
Mournful, disconsolate, dismay'd,
When *David* from his rebel fled:

But calm the Son of *David* goes
To meet His fierce ungrateful foes,
The life of *Absalom* to buy,
And for a world of rebels die.

2204. *Where was a garden, into the which He, &c.*—xviii. 1.

For evil in a garden done
Christ in a garden must atone:
Freely He comes by suffering there
Our loss of *Eden* to repair,
Bears in the memorable place
The sins of our devoted race,
Takes on Himself the wrath of God,
To quench it with His tears and blood.

2205. *And Judas also, which betrayed Him, knew, &c.*—xviii. 2.

The place apostates know,
And never can forget,
Where Jesus and His church below
In solemn worship meet:
Yet Him in vain they claim
Who to His foes desert;
Disciples, confessors* in name,
But traitors false in heart.

2206. *Judas...having received a band* of men, *&c.*—xviii. 3.

With sorrow Lord and fear
We Thine apostle see
Renounce his sacred character,
And hell prefer to Thee:
For we who fiercely blame
The wretch with Satan fraught,
Left to ourselves should do the same,
Should sell our God for nought.

* *Judas* signifies Confessor. [Author's note.]

2207. *Judas...cometh thither with lanterns, &c.*—xviii. 3.

When Satan rules and urges on
The blindfold slaves of wickedness,
Lanterns they bring, to seek the Sun,*
And arms, the' Omnipotent to seize.

2208. *Jesus therefore, knowing all things that, &c.*—xviii. 4.

Freely He lays the ransom down,
The life which none could take away,
Goes forth to meet the ills foreknown,
Yields Himself up an easy prey;
His foes by miracle struck blind,
Struck down by one resistless word,
Mild He instructs Himself to find,
And gives them power to seize their Lord.

2209. *They answered Him, Jesus of Nazareth. &c.*—xviii. 5.

Sinners to seek and save He came,
They seek, that they their God may slay:
And I of the dire number am,
And Jesus with a kiss betray;
But let the season past suffice,
That with the ruffian band I stood;
I see Thee now with open'd eyes,
And prostrate own, my Lord, my God!

2210. *As soon then as He had said unto them, I am, &c.*—xviii. 6.

1 That irresistible I AM
Declares the present Deity,
Yet none convinced their God proclaim,
Whose power and love they feel and see;
Who struck their bodies to the ground,
He might have struck their souls to hell,
In chains of penal darkness bound,
And plunged in flames unquenchable.

* Compare G. Herbert, "The Sacrifice," v. 9 and 33.

2 Ah, what can outward wonders do
To' o'ercome the stubbornness of man?
Unless Thou bind our spirits too,
Thy judgments cast us down in vain;
My hopes, designs, or health o'erthrow,
Yet will I not to Thee submit;
But give my heart Thy love to know,
And then I worship at Thy feet.

2211. *Then asked He them again, Whom seek ye? &c.*—xviii. 7

1 JESUS the oft repeated call
Doth to obdurate sinners give,
Time to recover from their fall,
To weigh their ways, repent and live:
He turns us to our hearts again,
He asks me whom I seek below,
Would I the world or Christ obtain,
The joy of grace or nature know?

2 Him do I seek by faith to' adore,
Or by my sins to crucify?
Jesus, Thou dost my thoughts explore,
My soul is naked to Thine eye:
I seek, or think I seek my Lord,
That when I find Thy precious grace,
Thy name may be confess'd, adored,
And hallow'd with eternal praise.

2212. *If therefore ye seek Me, let these go their way, &c.*—xviii. 8.

1 ANXIOUS Thy followers' lives alone
To save, forgetful of Thine own,
Thou dost by Thy command
Strike down whoe'er their God oppose,
Or secretly restrain Thy foes
And rule the ruffian band.

2 Thy servants, Lord, they must dismiss,
They cannot Thine apostles seize
Prohibited by Thee,
Who freely dost Thy life resign
A bleeding sacrifice Divine
For all mankind and me.

2213. *That the saying might be fulfilled, which, &c.*—xviii. 9.

1 SHEPHERD of souls, the lambs and sheep
Thy tender love delights to keep
In every dangerous hour,
Thou hid'st us by Thy guardian love
Beyond the reach of sin, above
The world, and Satan's power.

2 Safety and strength in Thee we have,
Thou wilt our souls and bodies save,
Who on Thine arm depend;
That arm omnipotent, Divine,
Which holds this feeble soul of mine,
Shall keep me to the end.

3 Me by Thy Father's love bestow'd
Thou wilt preserve, the gift of God,
Nor with Thy purchase part,
(Ready so oft to leave the fold,)
Thou wilt not quit Thy mercy's hold,
Or lose me from Thy heart.

4 With me Thy Spirit shall abide,
And help, and influence, and guide,
Till all my course is run:
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee near,
Thou wilt my heavenly Life appear,
And take me to Thy throne.

2214. *Peter having a sword drew it, and smote, &c.*—xviii. 10.

1 MAN without grace may courage show,
And much for Christ presume to do:
His zeal is all unsanctified,
His efforts are the starts of pride,
The eagerness of nature's haste,
Too fierce too violent to last.

2 Even the zeal which God bestows,
And as a placid stream it flows,
Returning to its Source above;
Its fervour is the flame of love,
From all the dross of nature pure,
And shall eternally endure.

2215. *Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup, &c.*—xviii. 11.

1 WHO furious for the truth contend,
Christ with an arm of flesh defend,
The world with its own weapons fight,
And oft your fellow-servants smite,
Put up the controversial sword,
Nor stain the meekness of your Lord.

2 Let heathens force by force repel,
Let bigots boast their fiery zeal,
The cup which God to Christ did give
Ye followers of the Lamb receive,
(The cup to all His members given,)
And die on earth to reign in heaven.

3 Jesus, I would with joy embrace
Thy portion here, Thy patient grace,
Meekly my nature's will resign,
Accept the precious gift Divine,
Thy sacred cup of grief unknown,
Thy cross, which mounts me to Thy throne.

2216. *Then the band and the captain and officers, &c.*—xviii. 12.

1 ADORABLE captivity
Which sets a world of prisoners free
From sin and Satan's iron chain!
Our souls Thou offerest to release;
Pardon and liberty and peace
We all may through Thy bonds obtain.

2 Jesus, Thy dear redeeming grace
By faith we thankfully embrace,
Enjoy our perfect freedom here,
Servants of righteousness we rise,
As sons of God regain the skies,
As heirs at Thy right hand appear.

2217.

1 HAPPY the highly favour'd man
Who wears Thine honourable chain,
To inward liberty restored!
Jesus, with Thee in spirit join'd,
He triumphs, for Thy cause confined,
The joyful prisoner of the Lord:
Who Thy captivity partake
And calmly suffer for Thy sake,
Our bonds are sanctified by Thine:
And when we have endured with Thee
Thy death of pain and infamy,
We shall in all Thy glories shine.

2218. *Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel, &c.*—xviii. 14.

THE world exult to see pursued
Their counsel to destroy the good,
And God permits them to oppress,
And curses with their own success:
When priests against His church conspire,
Accomplishing the fiends' desire,

Their triumph doth their fall portend,
Their joys in endless sorrows end.

2219. *The high priest then asked Jesus of His, &c.*—xviii. 19.

1 If men the Sovereign Priest arraign,
If men the' eternal Truth decry,
Shall Thy disciples Lord complain?
Or meekly to the charge reply,
Suspected or accused, like Thee,
Of error and conspiracy?

2 Still let the world their charge repeat,
As factious innovators brand,
The servants like the Master treat;
At their unrighteous bar we stand,
We stand, their utmost wrath to' abide,
We stand—with Jesus at our side.

2220. *In secret have I said nothing.*—xviii. 20.

O might I, like Jesus, be
Foe to guile and secrecy,
Walk as always in His sight,
Free and open as the light!
Jesus, Lord, to me impart
The true nobleness of heart,
The unfeign'd simplicity,
The pure mind which was in Thee.

2221. *Why askest thou Me? ask them which, &c.*—xviii. 21.

1 Join we, Lord, as taught by Thee,
Steadfastness and modesty,
Patiently our souls possess,
Resolute the truth confess,
Speak it when accused by men,
Firmly to the last maintain.

2 Challenge we the world to show
What they of Thy servants know:
Walk we not in open day?
Let the most malicious say,
Real testimony give,
How we speak, and how we live!

2222. *One of the officers...struck Jesus with the, &c.*—xviii. 22.

1 O'ERWHELM'D with grief and shame I see
My Saviour buffeted for me,
For faults which I have done,
Meekly He doth the' affront sustain
To' abase the loftiness of man,
And for my pride atone.

2 Confounded in the dust I would
The sufferings of an humbled God
With meekest awe adore,
Insulted as my Pattern be,
And never feel the injury,
And never murmur more.

2223. *Jesus answered him, If I have spoken, &c.*—xviii. 23.

SILENT we turn the other cheek,
The private injury pass by,
Yet when required for God to speak
From crimes ourselves to justify,
Submissive to the powers that be,
We dare not obstinate appear,
But speak with mild sincerity,
Our office, not ourselves to clear.

2224. *Now Annas had sent Him bound unto, &c.*—xviii. 24.

1 THOU Saviour by Thy sacred bands
Didst expiate man's audaciousness,
Who rashly dared extend his hands
The interdicted fruit to seize:

Thy hands are tied to loosen ours,
The instruments of sin set free,
Redeem our captivated powers,
And give us hearts to die for Thee.

2 Those voluntary bonds of Thine
Break all the bonds my will has made,
And fill with confidence Divine
My soul on my Redeemer stay'd:
In perfect liberty from sin
I serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
When Thou hast made me free within,
Free to obey, and praise, and love.

2225. *Peter then denied again: and immediately, &c.*—xviii. 27.

THRICE he promised to confess,
Thrice his suffering Lord denies,
Thus performs his promises,
Bonds and death he thus defies!
But let Jesus' look convert,
Then the reed a rock shall prove,
Thrice express his faithful heart,
Thrice protest his humble love.

2226. *They themselves went not into the judgment, &c.*—xviii. 28.

1 LEGAL impurity they dread
Who innocence oppress,
Nor fear the guiltless blood they shed
Should stain their consciences;
And thus our formalists maintain
Their sanctity's renown,
While gnats out of their cup they strain,
And swallow camels down.

2 Bitter implacable and proud
They in externals trust,

Abhor the genuine sons of God,
And persecute the just;
Heathens profane far off they see,
At open sinners start,
With eyes full of adultery,
And murder in their heart.

2227. *If He were not a malefactor, we would, &c.*—xviii. 30.

'Tis thus our fierce unrighteous foes
Their enmity declare,
Guilty of blackest crimes suppose,
And drag us to the bar:
The tedious forms of justice vain
They furiously pass by,
Pronounce us impious and profane,
And judge before they try.

2228. *The Jews...said unto him, It is not, &c.*—xviii. 31, 32.

1 A CRIMINAL they could not doom,
They might an innocent release,
Permitted by imperious *Rome*
To hear and try the witnesses;
But lo the rage of *Jewish* zeal
Conspires with *Roman* policy,
Thy sure prediction to fulfil,
And nail their Saviour to the tree.

2 And shall Thy followers complain
Who in Thy steps profess to go,
Condemn'd by rash oppressive man,
Entreated like Thyself below?
Or rather patiently receive
The treatment which confirms us Thine,
And when pronounced unfit to live
Our spirits on Thy cross resign!

2229. *Art Thou the King of the Jews?*—xviii. 33.

1 KING of the *Jews* and *Gentiles* too,
Born from above and form'd anew
By Thy creating power,
Thee, Jesus, we with joy confess,
And prostrate at Thy throne of grace
Thy majesty adore.

2 O wouldst Thou to my heart explain
The nature of Thy Spirit's reign,
The hidden mystery,
That fill'd with peace and love unknown
My pure self-emptied soul may own
Thou art a King in me.

2230. *What hast Thou done?*—xviii. 35.

JESUS, what hast Thou done?
No evil was in Thee,
But Thou hast made my deeds Thine own
A criminal for me.
For *Adam's* sinful race
Thou art condemn'd to die
That through Thy blood and righteousness
We all may reach the sky.

2231. *My kingdom is not of this world.*—xviii. 36.

1 NOT by force of arms upheld
The kingdom of Thy grace
Stands invisible, conceal'd
In the peculiar race;
Ruling over all it stands
A kingdom that can never move,
Stablish'd by Almighty hands
The Hierarchy of Love!

2 Not with worldly pomp and power
Thou dost Thy sway maintain,
Righteousness and peace restore
And happiness to man :
All Thy joyful subjects own,
Thy Spirit in Thy kingdom given
Makes our hearts Thy humble throne,
And turns our earth to heaven.

2232. *Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end, &c.*—xviii. 37.

1 JESUS, King of righteousness,
Thy people taught by Thee,
Bold before the world confess
Thy royal dignity :
Born for this alone we are,
And in Thy testimony join,
By our words and lives declare
The power of truth Divine.

2 God descended from the sky
And manifest within,
Thee the Truth we testify
Which makes us free from sin ;
Thee our Life in life and death
Our real Holiness we praise,
Publish with our latest breath
The truth of love and grace.

2233. *Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice.*—xviii. 37.

1 ALL that to the truth belong
The Saviour's word believe,
Manna dropping from Thy tongue
With humble joy receive;
Listening to Thy voice fulfil
The law of liberty and love,

Serve Thy good and perfect will
As angels do above.

2 Be it all my business Lord,
While here on earth I stay
Gladly to attend Thy word
And faithfully obey :
Thou to me Thy Spirit give,
And taught by His anointing, I
Witness of the truth shall live,
And in its service die.

2234. *Pilate saith unto Him, What is truth?*—xviii. 38.

1 THE men who human praise desire
Who set their heart on things below,
Like *Pilate* carelessly inquire,
But will not wait the truth to know,
But soon their slighted Lord forsake,
And cast His words behind their back.

2 Not with a cold or double heart
But faith's sincerity unfeign'd
We ask Thee Saviour to impart
The knowledge in Thyself contain'd,
And give our new-born souls to prove,
The Truth, the Life of perfect Love.

2235. *I find in Him no fault* at all.—xviii. 38.

1 HIS innocence we daily find
Acknowledged and abandon'd too
By men, who favourably inclined
To truth, yet tremble to pursue
The narrow path by Jesus trod,
And suffer with a patient God.

2 Jesus, the only faultless Man,
Thee would I constantly confess

Thy sovereign Deity maintain,
Stand by Thy hated witnesses,
Undaunted for Thy cause contend,
And Thee in life and death defend.

2236. *But ye have a custom, that I should release, &c.*—xviii. 39.

ARM'D with authority the man
Who for an innocent entreats,
He loses all his efforts vain,
His own high dignity forgets;
He should the clamorous command,
Declare for truth and equity,
The' oppressors to their face withstand,
And set the injured Captive free.

2237. *Then cried they all again, saying, Not this, &c.*—xviii. 40.

1 BY wild impetuous passion led
We still repeat the direful deed,
With one consent we cry
(While to the world our hearts we give)
In us let the first *Adam* live,
And let the Second die.

2 But let the season past suffice;
Jesus, we now unite our cries
And ask the death of sin;
Nail this *Barabbas* to the tree,
These lusts which steal our hearts from Thee;
And spread Thy life within.

3 The cruel murderers of our God,
Which shed so oft Thy precious blood
No longer Lord reprieve,
But slay them by the Spirit of grace,
And with Thy vital holiness
In all Thy members live.

CHAPTER XIX.

2238. *Then Pilate therefore took Jesus and scourged, &c.*—xix. 1.

THE Man of griefs by all despised,
Loaded with pain and infamy,
Like a rebellious slave chastised,
We mourn, but wonder not to see:
He stands in the first *Adam's* place
Beneath our penalties and pains,
Of all our disobedient race
The sin and chastisement sustains.

2239. *And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns.*—xix. 2.

1 ENROBED and crown'd in mockery
Thou dost for *Adam's* sin atone,
Who fain would independent be,
And live like God supreme alone:
With pride entail'd on all the kind,
We too would reign admired adored;
But here the remedy we find
The meekness of our humbled Lord.

2 Thou wouldst not from the people take
A crown without reproach or pain,
But scoff'd and wounded for our sake
Thou dost the grief and shame sustain;
Thou dost the crown of thorns receive,
To make Thy patient kingdom known,
And lo, with Thee we die and live,
We suffer and ascend Thy throne.

2240. *Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown, &c.*—xix. 5.

1 SINNER behold what thou hast done!
Exposed thy King to grief unknown,
To anguish and disgrace:

Thy sins have cover'd Him with scorn,
Thy sins have crown'd His head with thorn,
And marr'd His heavenly face.

2 Yet in that Man deform'd for Thee
The Fulness of the Godhead see,
That Man of grief and love
The Lord, thy Lord and God confess,
Who, by His blood and righteousness,
Hath bought thy crown above.

2241.
1 More precious than the gold and gems
That shine in earthly diadems,
The thorns of Jesu's crown
Stain'd with the blood of God, they pay
The debt of all mankind, and lay
The general ransom down.

2 A rich inheritance they buy,
Eternal mansions in the sky
For *Adam's* favour'd race:
And every ransom'd soul with me
By faith Thy mangled form may see,
And then Thy glorious face.

2242. *Behold the Man!*—xix. 5.

Who would not look on Thee,
Thou Man of grief and love?
'Tis heaven on earth, Thy face to see,
'Tis all our heaven above.

2243. *We have a law, and by our law He ought, &c.*—xix. 7.

The Son of God Himself He made,
Himself He proved the Son of God,
The law of love Divine obey'd,
Of justice, which required His blood:

His blood must purge our sinful stain,
Jehovah's vengeance satisfy,
Salvation for the world obtain ;
And by this law He ought to die.

2244. *When Pilate therefore heard that saying, &c.*—xix. 8.

How wretched is the man,
How sure of ill success,
Who fondly seeks with effort vain
God and the world to please !
He soon through servile fear
Gives up the injured side,
And Jesus in His members here
Again is crucified.

2245. *And saith unto Jesus, Whence art Thou? &c.*—xix. 9.

When He could Himself defend,
The Saviour holds His peace,
Our apologies to end,
And clamours to suppress :
Hear we then the speechless Lamb
Who doth our eagerness reprove,
Silence and for ever shame
Our self-excusing love.

2246. *Thou couldest have no power* at all, *&c.*—xix. 11.

1 Thee may I ever keep in view
Crush'd by abused authority
The evil instruments look through,
The wisdom of my Father see
Which lets the world Thy church oppress,
Or kill Thy passive witnesses.

2 Thy power doth now their rage confine,
Fast bound as by a secret chain :

And till Thy hand the warrant sign
Their malice threatens us in vain;
We know our hairs are number'd all,
Nor one without Thy leave can fall.

3 Wherefore on Thee we fix our eyes,
And wait the counsels of Thy will,
Assured that all in earth and skies
Shall only Thy design fulfil,
To Thine eternal glory tend,
And in our full salvation end.

2247. *From thenceforth Pilate sought to release Him.*—xix. 12.

He must the wrath Divine appease,
He must a world of sinners buy:
Man cannot rescue or release,
When God hath doom'd His Son to die.

2248. *If thou let this Man go, thou art not, &c.*—xix. 12, 13.

When passion in the judge prevails,
Human respect, or earthly hope,
His feeble love of justice fails,
And loth, he gives the guiltless up:
The slave of fame who would be just
Yet soothe the giddy multitude,
Sooner or late, he surely must
To interest sacrifice his God.

2249. *Behold your King!*—xix. 14.

1 Jesus while the world despise Thee
We our humbled King confess,
By the marks we recognise Thee,
Bleeding Prince of life and peace;
By the tokens of Thy passion
Us Thy faithful subjects know,

Then reveal Thy great salvation,
Then our crowns of life bestow.

2 Through humility and patience
Here Thou dost Thy sway maintain,
Out of mighty tribulations
Come Thy saints with Thee to reign:
King of griefs, our hearts adore Thee,
Pain'd with Thy afflictions, own
Suffering is Thy people's glory,
Suffering leads us to Thy throne.

2250. *But they cried out, Away with* Him, *&c.*—xix. 15.

1 WHO yield their hearts the sordid throne
Of pride or base desire,
Jesus they for their King disown,
And still His death require:
Away with Him! they will not have
This Man of woe to reign,
They will not suffer Him to save,
But crucify again.

2 *Cæsar* their only king they know,
The power invisible
The kingdom of Thy grace below
Lord, they refuse to feel:
The throne they might with Thee divide,
The Holy Ghost receive,
But will not suffer at Thy side,
And in Thy glory live.

2251. *And He bearing His cross went forth.*—xix. 17.

1 EMBLEM of our sins, He groans
Beneath the cross's load,
Thus for all our guilt atones,
And heals us by His blood;

Let us on our Surety gaze,
That lovely piteous spectacle!
Lo, He suffers in our place
What we deserve to feel.

2 Strength for us His sufferings buy
To imitate our Head:
Let us then ourselves deny,
And in Thy footsteps tread,
Go we forth to *Calvary*,
And bearing Thy reproach and pain,
Patient of the cross with Thee
Thy crown immortal gain.

2252. *They crucified Him.*—xix. 18.

1 Bound to the altar see
The bleeding Sacrifice!
Uplifted on the shameful tree
He hangs 'twixt earth and skies!
Jesus the crucified
Invites our sinful race,
And with those arms extended wide
Would all mankind embrace.

2 Was ever grief like His
Who bears Jehovah's name!
Of all His glory stripp'd He is,
And cover'd with our shame,
Cover'd with His own blood
Whom earth and heaven desires,
The Father's joy, the' eternal God
In agonies expires.

3 Number'd with sinners Thee
My Saviour I confess,

Struggling in death to ransom me
And all our dying race :
My Purchaser Divine,
My rightful Lord Thou art,
And lo ! I answer Thy design,
And give Thee all my heart !

2253. *They crucified...two other with Him.*—xix. 18.

VIRTUE by few embraced
We find in Christ alone,
Betwixt two opposite vices placed
Essential Virtue own :
And still the truth is seen
With error by its side,
And Christians among sinful men
Are daily crucified.

2254. *Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews.*—xix. 19, 20.

1 JESUS, by the judge allow'd
Supreme in regal power,
Very and eternal God
Let all Thy saints adore :
All the *Israelites* indeed
Their bleeding King and Saviour own,
On the cross we plainly read
Thy title to the throne.

2 King proclaim'd in different tongues,
Is our expiring God ;
All mankind to Thee belongs,
The purchase of Thy blood :
Universal Monarch Thou
Command the nations to submit,
Jews and *Greeks* and *Heathens* bow
Thy subjects at Thy feet.

2255. *Then said the chief priests...to Pilate, &c.*—xix. 21, 22.

1 CONSCIENCE and remorse for sin
Remembrancers severe,
After the dire act, begin
To plague the wicked here:
Soon they wish the deed effaced,
Which meets and blasts their guilty eyes,
In their view for ever placed,
And written in the skies.

2 Written with an iron pen,
My horrid crime I see,
I the Prince of Life have slain,
The Saviour on that tree!
Torn by sin His sacred flesh,
Those nails into His body driven,
Crucified my Lord afresh,
The King of earth and heaven.

3 Every sinner's King and mine
Thy majesty I own,
Cover'd with the blood Divine
Which did for all atone:
While I at Thy cross remain,
The crimson blood, the gushing tide
Washes out my sinful stain,
And saves the regicide!

2256. *Then the soldiers, when they had crucified, &c.*—xix. 23.

BY His nakedness He owns
Man's original offence,
For our sinful shame atones,
For our loss of innocence;
Soon as we our sins confess
Hides them from His Father's eyes,

Clothes us with His righteousness,
Gives us back our paradise.

2257. *They...made four parts, to every soldier a part.*—xix. 23.

ALL is grace and mystery!
Lo! His spoils divided are,
(While He hangs on yonder tree,)
Every soul may claim a share:
Jesus, and whate'er is His,
Let the world of sinners find;
Common the salvation is,
Parted out to all mankind.

2258. *The coat was without seam;...they said, &c.*—xix. 23, 24.

1 HEATHENS in every age contend
For forms of godliness,
And strictly charge us not to rend
Our Lord's external dress:
For Christ Himself they nothing care,
Yet unity maintain,
The seamless coat they will not tear
That they the whole may gain.

2 Each party calls the coat their own,
As masters of the loom,
Though neither at *Geneva* spun
Nor *Babylonish Rome;*
Their feuds and strifes which never cease,
Their fierce divisions, prove
They have not kept the bond of peace,
The unity of love.

2259. *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His, &c.*—xix. 25.

1 THE coward *Peter* had denied,
The judge through fear had crucified,
His followers base themselves betook
To flight, and all their Lord forsook:

The weaker sex, the *Marys* three,
Patterns of faith and constancy,
By Jesus on the cross remain,
And thence their strength and courage gain.

2 Arm'd with the power of Jesu's grace,
Surmounting nature's tenderness
The sharp heart-piercing sword they feel,
The horrors of that spectacle;
Unmoved by shame or danger near,
His only dying cries they hear,
Regardless of the' outrageous crowd
They only mark His streaming blood.

3 The martyrs thus their strength received,
While with the Man of griefs they grieved,
And dared the fiery test abide,
Partakers with the Crucified:
Thus all the followers of the Lamb
Endure the pain, despise the shame,
And power to suffer in His cause
Find at the foot of Jesus' cross.

2260. *He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.*—xix. 30.

1 *JACOB* gather'd up his feet,
Expiring in the bed,
Jesus doth to death submit,
And freely bows His head;
Willingly the ransom pays,
Gives Himself a sacrifice,
Pleased to suffer in our place
He bows His head, and dies.

2 All the sins of all mankind
On Jesu's head were laid;

Now He hath His life resign'd,
And our whole debt is paid.
Now we may our parting breath
Into our Father's hands commend,
Live for ever through the death
Of our expiring Friend.

2261. *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced, &c.*—xix. 34.

HE sleeps! and lo His wounded side
Gives being to His spotless bride,
Out of His side the church is took,
And while we on our Saviour look
We constitute the second *Eve*,
And through our Husband's dying live.

2262. *And forthwith came there out blood and water.*—xix. 34.

1 THE Rock is smote by *Moses'* rod,
And pours a consecrated flood:
I see the fountain open wide,
I see the' inseparable tide,
Atoning blood and water clean,
To expiate and wash out my sin.

2 Jesus from Thee I surely know
The streams of full salvation flow,
Confiding in Thy death possess
The pardon and the holiness,
The double life Thy wounds impart,
The peace and purity of heart.

2263. *He that saw* it *bare record, and his record, &c.*—xix. 35.

I DO believe the record true,
Thou camest by blood and water too,
By blood to' atone, by water clean
To wash out all my inbred sin,

To sprinkle and renew my heart,
To make me Saviour as Thou art,
And then take home Thy spotless bride,
And place me glorious at Thy side.

2264. *These things were done, that the Scripture, &c.*—xix. 36.

1 BEHOLD Him bleeding on the tree!
The Scripture and Divine decree
His death for sin require;
In weakness crucified and slain,
His strength to save doth still remain
Unbroken and entire.

2 True Paschal Lamb, to Thee I look;
To set the bones which sin hath broke
Thy Spirit's power exert;
Mighty to save a world from sin,
Thy salutiferous grace bring in,
And heal my contrite heart.

2265. *And again another Scripture saith, They, &c.*—xix. 37.

1 MY sins have done the deed,
His sacred body torn:
I see Him bow His head,
I look on Him and mourn!
The Man I pierced, 'tis He, 'tis He!
I feel, I feel, He dies for me!

2 O may I ever gaze
On an expiring God,
On that disfigured face
Deform'd with tears and blood,
Till coming in the clouds I own,
And mount to meet Him on His throne!

2266. *Joseph of Arimathæa, being a disciple of, &c.*—xix. 38.

1 THROUGH fear of the self-righteous *Jews*
Who Jesus secretly pursues,
And lurks awhile unknown,
May out of weakness be made strong
And bold before the worldly throng
His Lord and Saviour own.

2 Soon as His death confers the grace
Jesus we unashamed confess;
His weakest follower, I
Appear undaunted in His cause,
Live in the spirit of His cross
Or dare for Christ to die.

2267. *There came also Nicodemus, which at the first, &c.*—xix. 39.

1 WHO all our sin and weakness knows,
Strength in the' appointed time bestows
To answer His design:
But oft in love our cure delays,
To make the virtue of His grace
With brightest lustre shine.

2 If first to Christ by night we came,
If still our stronger brethren blame
Our feeble-mindedness,
We trust at that distinguish'd hour
To claim Him boldly, and with power
In life and death confess.

2268. *Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound, &c.*—xix. 40.

1 WHO our mortality put on,
Our burial clothes vouchsafes to wear;

And when these bodies we lay down,
Dress'd in the wedding robe we are,
As such our burial clothes esteem,
When worn and sanctified by Him.

2 Of spices all His garments smell,
Aloes and myrrh and cassia breathe:
Our faithful souls perceive and feel
The fragrant virtue of His death;
His death doth dying sinners cheer,
His death perfumes the sepulchre.

2269. *Now in the place where He was crucified there, &c.*—xix. 41.

DEATH and the grave their baleful power,
Their dread commission to devour
In *Eden's* garden first obtain'd,
And since on all mankind have reign'd:
Disarm'd they in a garden are,
O'ercome, their Conqueror's strength declare,
Who doth to us the victory give,
Who died that all mankind may live.

2270. *In the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was, &c.*—xix. 41.

THE only sinless Man and just
He cannot mix with common dust,
But born of a pure virgin's womb,
Must rise out of a virgin-tomb;
The tomb is new where Christ is laid,
New is the heart for Jesus made,
And all His purity receives,
While God in man for ever lives.

2271. *There laid they Jesus.*—xix. 42.

1 HERE lies of life the' immortal Prince
Under arrest for all our sins!

Our Surety hath procured our peace,
Discharged we are by His release;
The sun is vanish'd from our sight:
But Conqueror of the shades of night
He rises brighter than before,
He rises soon to set no more.

2 Prisoner of death, and silent here
He lies, till the third morn appear;
And then returns to life again,
And death is by his Captive slain;
The grave is now for us o'ercome,
Our bodies ransom'd from the tomb
After our Head triumphant rise,
And wear His glories in the skies.

2272.

1 My faith with joy and wonder sees
Jesus Thy sacred obsequies,
A burial which has power to save
From death, a burial of the grave!
It beautifies the hideous tomb,
It dissipates the frightful gloom,
Smoothly prepares my easiest bed,
The softest pillow for my head.

2 O that I now my wish might have,
And sink into my Saviour's grave;
O that this flesh no more oppress'd
With pain and sin, in hope might rest!
My soul disburden'd of its clay
On eagle's wings would soar away,
Behold the Sun with eagle's eyes,
And grasp my Lord in paradise.

[Seven "Short Hymns" on the words spoken on the Cross were inserted in the First Edition, under certain verses in St. Luke's Gospel, c. xxiii. As they were afterwards much enlarged and improved, it is deemed better, though at the risk of a little repetition, to place them together here in a complete form.]

HYMN I.

2273. "*I thirst.*"—John xix. 28.

1 EXPIRING in the sinner's stead,
"I thirst," the Friend of sinners cries,
And feebly lifts His languid head,
And breathes His wishes to the skies.

2 Not for the vinegar they gave,
For life, or liberty, or ease;
He thirsted all the world to save;
He only thirsted after this.

3 He thirsted for this soul of mine,
That I might His salvation see,
That I might in His image shine;
Meek Lamb of God,—He long'd for me!

4 Willing that all His death should know,
And feel the virtue of His blood,
He thirsted to redeem His foe,
And reconcile a world to God.

5 And shall not we the same require,
And languish to be saved from sin?
Yes, Lord, 'tis all our heart's desire;
O wash, and make us pure within!

6 Be satisfied! We thirst for Thee,
We add our strong desire to Thine;
See then Thy soul's hard travail, see,
And die to make us all Divine.

HYMN II.

2274. "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*"—Luke xxiii. 34.

1 "FATHER, forgive the sinful race,
Who in My blood their hands imbrue;
O let that blood their sins efface;
Alas! they know not what they do."

2 Hear the meek Lamb for sinners plead,
For those who nail'd Him to the tree;
He suffers in His murderers' stead;
He prays for all mankind, and me.

3 Our sins have nail'd Him to the wood;
Our sins the Prince of Life have slain,
Have spill'd His heart's last drop of blood;
Nor can He plead and pray in vain.

4 We are from all our sins released,
Who trust in that expiring groan;
In Him the Father is well-pleased;
He always hears His favourite Son.

5 "Forgive them," gasps the parting breath,
And now the world may be forgiven,
God heard Him intercede beneath,
And seal'd the dying prayer in heaven.

6 "Forgive them," still the Saviour cries,
Sprinkling the nations with His blood;
The blood of sprinkling fills the skies,
And speaks believers up to God.

HYMN III.

2275. "*Woman, behold thy son!*"—John xix. 26.

1 WHILE hanging on the shameful cross,
His scatter'd flock the Saviour sees,

Their wants His dying thoughts engross,
He marks and pities their distress :

2 He all their griefs and sorrows shares,
Nor even in death forgets His own,
But kindly for His orphans cares ;
"Woman," He saith, "behold thy son."

3 To us the new command He gives,—
O may we all obedient prove,
And take the legacy He leaves,
His richest legacy of love.

4 Us each to other He commends,
And bids us in one Spirit join ;
Unites, and makes us more than friends,
All kinsmen, in a bond Divine.

5 Then let us each to other give
The honour to a parent due,
And all with tenderest love receive,
A love which nature never knew.

6 Give, Jesus, give the' uniting grace,
The bond of charity Divine ;
And let us all mankind embrace,
And love them with a love like Thine.

HYMN IV.

2276. "*To-day shalt thou be with Me in paradise.*"—Luke xxiii. 43.

1 O JOYFUL sound of pardoning grace ;
All hail, Thou suffering Deity !
I too with Thee would take my place,
I too would gladly be with Thee.

2 Thy voice that dying sinner cheers,
And saves him at his latest hour,

To dissipate our guilty fears,
And show forth all Thy saving power.

3 O who can of Thy grace despair,
That sees the thief on yonder tree?
If he could find forgiveness there,
Surely forgiveness is for me.

4 Remember me, O Lord my God;
Thou art into Thy kingdom come;
Sprinkle my conscience with Thy blood,
And take my gasping spirit home.

5 Death, everlasting death, I own
The just reward of my offence:
But Thou hast naught of evil done;
Thou art all love, all innocence.

6 For Thy own sake pronounce the word;
Tell me, in answer to my cries,
"To-day thou shalt be with thy Lord,
And find in Me thy paradise."

HYMN V.

2277. *"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"*—Mat. xxvii. 46.

1 HEAR, earth and heaven, with wonder hear,
That deepest note of grief unknown;
What means that strange mysterious prayer?
Can God desert His only Son?

2 Who heard Him speaking from the skies,
"I always am well-pleased in Thee,"
"My God, my God," the Favourite cries,
"O why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

3 Didst Thou forget, Thou Man of Grief,
For whom Thou didst the death sustain?

Thy sore distress is our relief,
Thy loss is our eternal gain.

4 Didst Thou forget the kind design,
Which made Thee lay aside Thy crown?
That strange excess of love Divine,
Which brought the' incarnate Godhead down?

5 For whom didst Thou endure the cross?
For whom didst Thou consent to bleed?
Didst Thou not undertake our cause?
Didst Thou not suffer in our stead?

6 'Twas not for sin which Thou hadst done,
Thy angry Father hid His face;
But on Thy innocence was shown
The vengeance due to *Adam's* race.

7 Man, guilty man, by God abhorr'd,
Deserved His utmost wrath to know,
Driven from the presence of the Lord
To regions of eternal woe.

8 But Thou our sins and curse didst take,
That we might bless'd and holy be;
And Thee Thy Father did forsake,
That He might ne'er abandon me.

9 Deserted at Thy greatest need,
Thou know'st to pity what I feel:
My God, my God, Thy face is hid;
I wander on in darkness still.

10 Gross darkness, such as may be felt,
Egyptian night my soul o'erspreads;
My heart within like wax doth melt,
And on Thy cross my nature bleeds.

11 I taste the bitter cup, and share
Thine agonies and grief unknown,
Till Thou the' accomplishment declare,
And tell my inmost soul, "'Tis done!"

HYMN VI.

2278. "*Into Thy hands I commend My spirit.*"—Luke xxiii. 46.

1 THE holy Jesus rests in hope,
And calm in death on God relies;
His parting spirit He gives up
Into His Father's hands, and dies.

2 Meek, patient Lamb, for us He gives
The life which none could take away,
And lays it down, and God receives
His soul into eternal day.

3 O might I thus my warfare end,
Meekly to God my soul resign,
Into my Father's hands commend!
O Jesus, let Thy death be mine!

4 I long with Thee to bow my head,
Offer'd upon Thy sacrifice;
With Thee to sink among the dead,
And in Thy life triumphant rise.

HYMN VII.

2279. "*It is finished.*"—John xix. 30.

1 'TIS finish'd! The *Messias* dies,
Cut off for sins, but not His own:
Accomplish'd is the sacrifice,
The great redeeming work is done.

2 'Tis finish'd! all the debt is paid;
Justice Divine is satisfied;
The grand and full atonement made;
God for a guilty world hath died.

3 The veil is rent in Christ alone;
The living way to heaven is seen;
The middle wall is broken down,
And all mankind may enter in.

4 The types and figures are fulfill'd;
Exacted is the legal pain;
The precious promises are seal'd;
The spotless Lamb of God is slain.

5 The reign of sin and death is o'er,
And all may live from sin set free;
Satan hath lost his mortal power;
'Tis swallow'd up in victory.

6 Saved from the legal curse I am,
My Saviour hangs on yonder tree:
See there the meek, expiring Lamb!
'Tis finish'd! He expires for me.

7 Accepted in the Well-beloved,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
I see the bar to heaven removed;
And all Thy merits, Lord, are mine.

8 Death, hell, and sin are now subdued;
All grace is now to sinners given;
And, lo, I plead the' atoning blood,
And in Thy right I claim Thy heaven.

CHAPTER XX.

2280. *The first* day *of the week...early, when it was, &c.*—xx. 1.

When vanquishing our sloth and ease
We wait at Jesus' sepulchre,
The Lord removes the hindrances,
And scatters all our grief and fear,
Himself He to His mourners shows,
His Spirit in our hearts is shed,
Life on our drooping souls bestows,
And calls, and raises from the dead.

2281. *Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, &c.*—xx. 2.

A soul who hath the Saviour known,
And seen Him bleeding on the cross,
When Christ out of his sight is gone,
Most sensibly resents the loss,
He weeps disconsolate and sighs,
And tells to Jesus' friends his pain,
And restless every means he tries
To find his much-loved Lord again.

2282. *Peter...went forth, and that other disciple, &c.*—xx. 3.

The pastor call'd a soul to aid
In search of Him who lives, though dead,
Should rise and run without delay,
And bring the mourners on their way ;
Himself in haste his Lord to find
Should leave all earthly things behind,
But never from the tomb depart
Till Christ is risen in his heart.

2283. *So they ran both together: and the other disciple, &c.*—xx. 4.

Swiftly the man whom Jesus loves
In quest of his Redeemer moves ;

Sad *Peter* bears a load of woe,
And clogg'd with guilt and shame moves slow;
But soon he finds the Lord from heaven,
And much he loves when much forgiven,
On Jesu's cross his life lays down,
And first obtains the martyr's crown.

2284.

O MIGHT I at the goal arrive,
And find the Crucified alive,
Outstrip my old companions here,
And foremost reach the sepulchre!
There let my peaceful ashes lie
Till my Redeemer bows the sky,
And Jesus, Conqueror of the grave
Returns, my quicken'd dust to save.

2285. *He stooping down*, and looking in, *saw*, *&c.*—xx. 5.

ONLY thus by stooping low
By Divine humility,
Can I my Redeemer know,
Him who left the grave for me:
Prostrate faith with weary eyes
Looks into the sepulchre,
Sees the tokens of His rise,
Sees its living Lord appear.

2286. *Then cometh Simon Peter...and went into the*, *&c*—xx. 6.

CAN the grave a Christian scare
Yawning like destruction's pit?
No undying worms are there,
Free from dread he enters it;
In the place where Christ was laid,
Calm he lays his body down,
Through the grave pursues his Head,
Through the cross obtains the crown.

2287. *And seeth the linen clothes lie, and the napkin, &c.*—xx. 6, 7.

1 CHRIST returning to the skies
Drops His mantle in His rise,
Marks of temporary death
Leaves the linen clothes beneath,
Puts His robes of glory on,
Reascends His Father's throne.

2 We the linen garments need
Left to sheet our softest bed,
Left in Jesus' grave they are
Ours to hallow and prepare;
There the separate napkin lies,
Left to dry the mourner's eyes.*

2288. *Then went in also that other disciple, &c.*—xx. 8.

WITH hasty grief and fear
Who seek the Crucified,
Visit the holy sepulchre,
And at His tomb abide;
I shall the proofs perceive,
The tokens more than see,
And quicken'd by His Spirit believe
He rose, to live in me.

2289. *Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping.*—xx. 11.

1 EXPECTING at Jesus's grave
The signs of His favour restored,
His virtue to quicken and save,
I sigh for a sight of my Lord!
My Only-beloved is gone,
Has left me in trouble and pain,
His Spirit alas is withdrawn!
Ah when shall I find Him again?

* Compare G. Herbert, "The Dawning," l. 14 *et seq.*

2 Forgotten of God and forsook,
Dissolved in an ocean of tears,
I into His sepulchre look
And mourn till a Saviour appears:
No vision of angels I prize,
Unless He His Spirit impart,
Unless the Delight of my eyes
Discover Himself to my heart.

3 Even now my affliction He sees,
Unseen, yet invisibly nigh
My Saviour observes my distress,
And marks with a merciful eye:
This burden of sorrow and pain
A glimpse of His face shall remove;
He waits to be gracious again,
To give me a sight of His love.

4 I turn from the creature away
To Him whom alone I desire,
He hears my infirmity pray
While Him of Himself I require;
Where is He, the Lord of my heart,
Whom only I languish to see?
As sure as in heaven Thou art,
Thou art with a mourner for Thee.

2290. *Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned, &c.*—xx. 16.

1 It is the voice of my Beloved,
My fears are fled, my griefs removed,
He calls a sinner by his name,
And He is mine, and His I am!
Jesus by a word made known,
Thee my gracious Lord I own.

2 My gracious Lord I know, Thou art,
The lawful Master of my heart,

I feel Thy resurrection's power;
And joyful at Thy feet adore;
Now I only live to prove
Thou art God, and God is love.

2291.

JESUS, speak the word to me,
Call me by my worthless name,
Then I shall my Master see,
Then I shall my Lord proclaim,
Quicken'd by Thy rising rise,
Follow after to the skies.

2292. *Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not, &c.*—xx. 17.

1 WHILE Thine earthly course was ending,
Thee the Son of God and man,
To Thy Father's arms ascending
Mary might not here detain:
In Thy state of exaltation
Now to sense no longer known,
Glorious God of our salvation,
Hail on Thy eternal throne!

2 Thee the theme of all their praises,
High extoll'd above all height
Seraphs see, and veil their faces,
Sinking in a flood of light:
Yet Thy ransom'd worms approach Thee,
See Thy smiling face and live,
Still by humble faith we touch Thee,
Thee into our hearts receive.

3 Faith effects the wondrous union,
Faith unfolds the mystery,
Sweetest spiritual communion,
Son of man, we have with Thee;
Faith its gracious Lord embraces,
Still by faith we clasp Thy feet,

Sit with Thee in heavenly places,
At Thy side for ever sit.

2293. *The same day at evening, being the first, &c.*—xx. 19, 20.

1 JESUS, on this solemn day
To chase our fears and sins away,
Our living Lord appears:
Meet us, assembled in Thy name,
Stand in the midst, and now proclaim
That God is present here.

2 Present we know Thou always art:
But speak to every troubled heart
The reconciling word;
Show us Thy wounded hands and side,
And conscious of Thy blood applied,
We glory in the Lord.

3 Triumphant through Thy mortal pain
Thou dost the bleeding marks retain
To' excite our grateful love;
Thou still before Thy Father's eyes
Offer'st the precious sacrifice
Which bought our thrones above.

4 The vision of those glorious scars
Our fear dispels, our strength repairs,
And makes our Saviour known,
Emboldens us to serve Thy cause,
And joyfully embrace the cross
Connected with the crown.

2294. *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace* be *unto you.*—xx. 21.

1 JESUS' word doth first convey
Peace into the anxious breast,
Peace which drives the fear away,
Earnest of eternal rest:

Then His wounds He plainly shows,
Then the raptured child of grace
Truly his Redeemer knows,
Sees his heaven in Jesus' face.

2 Peace the Saviour speaks again,
Peace to curb our joy extreme,
Peace which always shall remain,
Perfect peace with God in Him:
Then the kingdom we receive
'Stablish'd sure no more to move*
Only for His glory live,
Only breathe to breathe His love.

2295. *Peace* be *unto you: as* My *Father hath sent Me, &c.*—xx. 21

1 JESUS, Thy word till time shall end
The ministerial call imparts,
Thou only dost Thy servants send
By speaking peace into our hearts:
We then declare the things we know,
Ourselves assured of sin forgiven,
Glad tidings of salvation show,
And publish peace 'twixt earth and heaven.

2 Apostle of Thy Father Thee
Our peace we joyfully proclaim,
Strong in Thy Spirit's energy
Divulge the wonders of Thy name;
With Thy Divine commission sent
Ambassadors of the Most-High,
We call to all mankind—Repent;
Believe; obey; and mount the sky!

2296. *He breathed on* them.—xx. 22.

1 THE Breath of Christ, that Spirit is!
Saviour, to me the gift impart,

* Compare Note, Vol. II, p. 97.

To purge my sin, and seal my peace,
Thy Spirit breathe into my heart:
Ah, give me now the chaste desire,
The spotless love and purity,
With all Thy holiness inspire,
With all the mind which was in Thee.

2 Thou didst inspire his mortal frame,
Thou didst the breath of lives bestow,
And man a living soul became,
The portraiture of God below:
Thou dost inspire the life of grace,
And as a second soul confer,
The Holy Ghost on all our race,
The saints' eternal Comforter.

2297. *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted, &c.*—xx. 23.

If Thou ordain the minister
His word doth guilty souls release,
Doth with authority declare
The' appointed terms of gospel peace;
The poor self-desperate sinner feels
The truth we in Thy name assert,
And our report Thy Spirit seals
In pardon on the faithful heart.

2298. And *whose soever* sins *ye retain, they are retained.*—xx. 23.

But how can we their guilt retain?
The sons of infidelity
We tell, that still their sins remain
Uncancell'd, till they come to Thee:
The sentence we pronounce beneath
Thou dost confirm it in the skies,
The infidel abides in death,
And unconvinced, for ever dies.

2299. *The other disciples...said unto him, We have, &c.*—xx. 25.

JESU's followers all confess
That Him they have beheld,
Known the bleeding Prince of Peace,
And felt His love reveal'd:
Yet I cannot trust their word,
Till, folding in my faith's embrace,
Him I find to life restored
Who suffer'd in my place.

2300. *Except I shall see in His hands the print, &c.*—xx. 25.

1 No, I never will believe
Unless my Lord I see,
Proofs infallible receive
That Jesus died for me;
Meet Him risen from the dead,
Thrust my hand into His side,
Mark the prints the nails have made,
And feel His blood applied.

2 Slow of heart, Thou know'st I am;
Mine unbelief reprove,
Call me, Saviour, by my name,
In manifested love,
Condescend to my request,
My dying Lord, my pardoning God,
Come in all Thy wounds confess'd,
And wash me in Thy blood.

3 Sin and doubt to chase away,
A drooping soul to cheer,
Now Thy hands and feet display,
Divinely present here.
Show Thyself as crucified,
The' irrefragable tokens give,

Take into Thine open side,
And force me to believe.

2301. *Again His disciples were within, and Thomas, &c.*—xx. 26.

1 If but one faithless soul be here,
Jesus assembled with Thine own,
Wilt Thou not in the midst appear,
Thy resurrection's power make known,
Sprinkle the sinner with Thy blood,
And show Thyself his Lord and God.

2 Slower of heart than *Thomas* I
With Thy sincere disciples meet,
A conscious unbeliever sigh
For faith and pardon at Thy feet:
Thy feet alas, I cannot see,
Or feel the blood that flows for me.

3 But nothing can obstruct Thy way
Thou omnipresent God of love:
Come, Saviour come, Thy wounds display,
My stubborn unbelief remove,
And me among Thy people bless,
And fill our hearts with heavenly peace.

4 Occasion from my slowness take
Thy faithful follower to cheer,
For a poor abject sinner's sake,
Jesus, the second time appear,
Increase Thy saints' felicity,
And bless them all by blessing me.

2302. *Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy, &c.*—xx. 27.

1 O how kind and condescending
Is the sinner's Friend to me;
Ready with His balm attending
On my soul's infirmity!

The fresh tokens of His passion
He sets forth before my eyes,
Gives me many a demonstration
Of His life above the skies.

2 Jesus, Thee my God and Saviour
By those open scars I own,
Conscious of Thy love and favour,
Freely saved by grace alone;
Daily all my sins forgiving
Peace Divine Thy words impart,
"Be not faithless but believing"
Speaks Thy life into my heart.

2303. *My Lord and my God.*—xx. 28.

1 THE sight without the touch compell'd
His incredulity to yield,
And by Thy bleeding wounds subdued,
Thomas replied, My Lord, my God!
Thy wounds alone can conquer me,
Convince of Thy Divinity,
Assure that God is all my own,
And make my heart Thy peaceful throne.

2 Constrain'd I do at last believe,
And Thee, my Lord, my God receive,
Not man made God, but God made man,
Come down from heaven on earth to reign.
The only God and Lord Most-High,
Thou didst for faithless sinners die,
Didst rise to prove our sins forgiven,
And draw me after Thee to heaven.

2304. *Because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed.*—xx. 29.

1 SOUND in the faith, though weak and slow,
My feeble faith, sincere I know,
Jesus vouchsafes to' approve,

Though long my Saviour I withstood,
He hath the infidel subdued
By manifested love.

2 Consenting to my Lord and God,
The grace Divine by Him bestow'd
The comfort I receive,
A witness of His quickening power,
The Author of my faith adore,
And consciously believe.

2305. *Blessed* are *they that have not seen, and* yet, *&c.*—xx. 29.

1 THAT Man among the sons of men
With eyes of flesh we have not seen
And yet believe on Him,
That Man Jehovah's Fellow own
The Father's co-eternal Son,
Almighty and supreme.

2 Superior happiness we prove,
While Him, not having seen, we love,
Sure of our sins forgiven
Eternal life in faith we feel,
The ecstacies unspeakable,
The glorious joys of heaven.

2306. *These are written, that ye might believe that, &c.*—xx 31.

1 FAITH comes by hearing of the word,
Comes to the heart by reading too,
While searching for our heavenly Lord,
Him in the sacred page we view,
Him whom the Holy Ghost reveals,
And pardon on our conscience seals.

2 Recorded in the' authentic book
While Jesu's life and death we read,

We for the promised Witness look
  Who speaks Him risen from the dead :
Inspired, we then in Him rely
That Christ, that Son of the Most-High.

3 Jehovah's Son, declared with power,
  We by His resurrection know,
Our Lord and God supreme adore,
  Our Prophet, Priest, and King below,
Whose unction light and life imparts,
And grace and glory to our hearts.

4 Jesus, believing in Thy name,
  We see the tree of life arise;
Thy grace removes the sword of flame,
  And gives us back our paradise,
Feeds with immortalizing food,
And fills with the pure life of God.

5 Life, through the virtue of Thy love,
  Spiritual life Divine, we gain ;
With Thee our Head enthroned above
  The closest fellowship maintain,
Till face to face our God we see,
Our full eternal Life in Thee.

CHAPTER XXI.

2307. *After these things Jesus shewed Himself, &c.*—xxi. 1.

THE Saviour doth in various ways
  Himself to His disciples show ;
He meets us, when we seek His face,
  Assembled in His courts below :

He oft prevents our care and thought,
And while in common works employ'd,
Comes to us unforeseen, unsought,
And shows our hearts the living God.

2308. *Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing.*—xxi. 3.

1 A FISHER of men Will others invite,
Each sinew to strain By day and by night,
With close application, The servants of sin,
The heirs of salvation, For Jesus to win.

2 But without their Lord Their efforts are vain,
The net of the word Will nothing obtain ;
In darkness they labour With sorrow of heart,
One soul or one neighbour They cannot convert.

3 Yet Jesus regards Their services pass'd,
And fully rewards His workmen at last,
Their labours He blesses With wonders of grace,
And mighty successes, And sights of His face.

2309. *We also go with thee.*—xxi. 3.

1 THE fishers of men In love should agree,
And concord maintain Appointed by Thee,
Through every nation Good news to proclaim,
And publish salvation By faith in Thy name.

2 United in heart Together we go,
The gospel impart Which all men may know :
And sinners receiving Our record as Thine
Obtain by believing The fulness Divine.

2310. *They went forth, and entered into a ship.*—xxi. 3.

THEIR successors we find
In them and them alone
Who cast the pride of life behind,
And tread its pleasures down ;

From each superfluous need,
From all ambition free,
Who love a toilsome life to lead
In patient poverty.

2311. *But when the morning was now come, Jesus, &c.*—xxi. 4.

1 SEE a rough draught of human life!
All is one continued strife,
Fatigue and misery!
A night of perilous distress,
Without relief, without success,
We tempt the stormy sea.

2 But when the dreary hour is o'er,
Jesus on the happy shore
Shall satisfy our need;
Shall bless us with the sight of God,
And with imperishable food
Our raptured spirits feed.

2312.

1 EVEN now we know 'tis He, 'tis He!
Him with eyes of faith we see
As in the haven stand;
Jesus our all-victorious God
Hath waded through a sea of blood
To that celestial land.

2 His work is done, His sufferings pass'd,
Safe arrived, He rests at last
In full supreme delight:
But we alas, are still at sea,
Compell'd in toil and jeopardy
To weather out the night.

3 Yet Him we trust who went before,
Jesus waiting on the shore
Our spirits to receive:

We soon shall reach that quiet place,
And through the vision of His face
In endless raptures live.

2313. *The disciples knew not that it was Jesus.*—xxi. 4.

1 JESUS sometimes by slow degrees
Himself to His disciples shows,
Darkly at first the sinner sees,
Nor yet his distant Saviour knows,
Surrounded with imperfect light
And half discover'd to the sight.

2 He speaks in tender pitying grace,
Kindly into our wants inquires,
His love's omnipotence displays,
To satiate our enlarged desires;
Feeds with His wonder-working word,
And then we cry, It is the Lord!

2314. *Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have, &c.*—xxi. 5.

1 JESUS the poor with pity sees,
He looks into our cottages,
Inquires with condescension sweet
My children, have ye aught to eat?
He bids us our requests make known,
Our burdens cast on Him alone,
Prevents the hungry beggar's prayer,
And feeds us with a father's care.

2 He knows our depth of poverty,
But wills that we ourselves should see,
Should humbly at His feet confess
Our utter want of every grace:
Saviour, we nothing have to eat;
Thou living Bread, Thou heavenly Meat.

Indulge us with a fresh supply,
Or wanting Thee, we faint and die.

2315. *Cast the net on the right side...and ye shall find.*—xxi. 6.

1 PROVIDENCE extends its care
To things minutely small,
Things the most contingent are
By wisdom order'd all :
Happy they who know His mind,
Obedient to His leading grace,
God in every action find,
And own in all their ways.

2 By Thy word and Spirit led
And providential will
Sure to prosper in our deed,
Our net at last we fill :
Fruitless pains and labours cross'd
Must finally successful be ;
Nothing, Lord, was ever lost
By faithfulness to Thee.

2316. *They cast therefore, and now they were not, &c.*—xxi. 6.

THIS comfort is for you,
Ye gospel fishermen,
Who patiently your work pursue
But seem to work in vain :
Your net persist to cast,
As Jesus' ministers,
And know, one happy draught at last
Will pay your toil of years.

2317.

WHEN Jesus gives the word,
And doth their labours bless
The prosperous servants of the Lord
Admire their own success :

Appointed and employ'd
By Christ, His hand they own,
And all their fruit ascribe to God,
And praise His name alone.

2318.

When God hath touch'd our souls, and brought
Into the apostolic net,
A work miraculous is wrought,
But all is not effected yet:
So long so deeply plunged in sin,
We still are drawn by His command
Till He who did the work begin
Completes, and brings us all to land.

2319. *Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved, &c.*—xxi. 7.

1 Jesus is first perceived and known
By loving and quick-sighted *John*,
Who hastes the joyful news to tell,
And points Him out to *Peter's* zeal:
And *Peter's* fervent soul is stirr'd,
And springs with joy to grasp his Lord.

2 A faithful soul will never stay,
Though pain and death obstruct the way,
But venture all, his faith to prove,
And reach the Object of his love,
Rush through the flame, and swim the flood,
Or wade to Christ, through seas of blood.

3 O that they both in me might meet,
The zeal and love, the light and heat!
My Master dear I first would know,
To Him through fire and water go,
Danger and toil for Christ despise,
Or lose my life to gain the prize.

2320. *The other disciples came in a little ship, &c.*—xxi. 8.

1 THY least disciple, I
In this tempestuous sea
My business occupy
And urge my way to Thee,
My whole employ till life is o'er
To drag the net, and seek the shore;

2 My partners in the ship,
Master, vouchsafe to bless,
And help us through the deep
Into the port of peace;
Us, and whoe'er our pains have won
Receive, to feast around Thy throne.

2321. *As soon then as they were come to land, they saw, &c.*—xxi. 9.

MIRACLES He multiplies!
Ocean yields its hidden store,
Earth the plenteous meal supplies,
Both confess their Master's power!
Still He doth His followers feed,
Still He gives His labourers rest,
Fills our souls with living bread,
Brings us to His heavenly feast.

2322. *Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish, &c.*—xxi. 10.

1 SHOULD we not on our labour live,
Sufficient sustenance receive
Who minister the word?
Should we not seek the souls of men,
And whom our happy labours gain,
Present unto the Lord?

2 Master, they are not ours but Thine,
Caught in the net of love Divine,
The captives of Thy grace

A willing multitude receive;
And while their joyful hearts believe,
Their mouth shall speak Thy praise.

2323. *Peter went up, and drew the net to land, &c.*—xxi. 11.

1 We nothing catch with all our care,
Till He bestow the power;
And then we still unable are
To draw the net to shore:
The souls enclosed in Jesus' net
He helps us to bring on,
And by His influence to complete
The work His grace begun.

2 Sinners drawn forth out of the deep
Of sin and misery,
Lord, through Thy only name we keep,
Till we present to Thee;
We build them up in holiness,
In humble faith and love,
And bring them to that blissful place,
And land them safe above.

2324. *And for all there were so many, yet was not, &c.*—xxi. 11.

1 When on that celestial land
Numbers without number stand,
And their differences are o'er
Satan can divide no more,
Neither strife nor sin remains,
Universal concord reigns.

2 All harmoniously combine,
One in unity Divine,
In the bond of perfectness,
Centre of eternal peace,

All compose the church above,
Church of pure consummate love.

2325. *Jesus saith unto them, Come* and *dine.*—xxi. 12.

CHRIST to His servants condescends,
Invites and treats us as His friends,
Calls us to fellowship with Him
In grace and happiness supreme ;
Admits us by His Father bless'd,
Partakers of the heavenly feast,
His glorious fulness to receive,
And in His blissful presence live.

2326. *And none of the disciples durst ask Him, &c.*—xxi. 12.

1 CONSCIOUS of Jesus near,
Struck dumb through humble fear,
While we feel His power and love
Taste unutterable peace,
Dare we in His presence move,
Need we ask Him who He is?

2 We know He is the Lord
By earth and heaven adored,
On His plenitude we feed,
Cannot doubt or disbelieve,
Take in Him the real bread,
Bread which none but God can give.

2327. *Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and, &c.*—xxi. 13.

1 JESUS, with heavenly bread
Thou dost Thy people feed,
Thoughtful of Thy meanest guest
Thou distributest the meat,
Master of the gospel feast
Thou bestow'st the power to eat.

2 All, all the blessings prove
Of Thy redeeming love
Thou who didst the Spirit buy
Dost to each the gift impart,
Dost the purchased grace apply,
Pardon write on every heart.

2328. *This is now the third time that Jesus, &c.*—xxi. 14.

1 Our crucified Head
Is risen indeed!
His witnesses we
Are daily allow'd our Redeemer to see;
His presence He shows,
His blessing bestows,
And provides us our meat,
And admits us with Him at His table to sit.

2 By His Spirit made known
He visits His own,
Our Saviour appears,
And the needy relieves, and the comfortless cheers;
To purest delights
His disciples invites,
And His flesh is our food,
And He gives us to drink of His mystical blood.

3 The Saviour we love
We expect from above
In His body to come,
And receive His elect to our permanent home;
We shall see Him again
With His heavenly train,
And in triumph arise
His companions and friends to a feast in the skies.

2329. *Lovest thou Me?*—xxi. 15.

WHAT shall I answer Thee?
I know Thy love to me,
Yet my impotence I mourn,
Kindest, loveliest as Thou art,
I can make Thee no return,
Till Thy grace renews my heart.

2330. *Lovest thou Me more than these?... Yea, &c.*—xxi. 15.

1 HE dares no more himself prefer,
Or boast his own superior grace,
But humbly doth his love declare,
His question'd love with warmth express,
Urged by the thrice-repeated word,
The man who thrice denied his Lord.

2 But words will not suffice alone,
To' evince his love revived indeed:
The lambs whom Jesus calls His own,
The sheep he learns of Christ to feed,
And thus his strong affection proves
Who Jesus' flock sincerely loves.

2331. *Lord, Thou knowest.*—xxi. 15.

PETER had by experience found
That Thou omniscient art,
Whose piercing eye discerns the ground
Of each deceitful heart:
To Thee for what Thy grace hath done
He humbly now appeals,
And while he trusts Thyself alone
He all his weakness feels.

2332. *He saith to him again the second time, &c.*—xxi. 16.

1 NO; my sin and shame I own,
Burden'd with an heart of stone,

Conscious of my misery,
Destitute of love to Thee.

2 But I can to Thee appeal,
Thee who lov'dst my soul so well,
Fain I would the grace obtain,
Love my loving Lord again.

3 Till the Crucified appears
Scattering all my griefs and fears,
Humbled in the dust I cry,
Give me love, or else I die.

4 Thou who freely didst resign
Thy own life to ransom mine,
Manifest the mystery,
Show Thy bleeding love for me.

5 Only Thy expiring pain
Can my stubbornness constrain:
But if Thou Thy death reveal
Then the riven rock shall feel;

6 Then I shall to Thee reply,
(Vanquish'd by Thy passion I,)
See the love Thy wounds impart,
Read it Saviour, in my heart.

2333. *Thou knowest that I love Thee.*—xxi. 16.

1 THOU know'st, that now I love Thee not:
Thou know'st that Thee I long to love:
And Thou for me the power hast bought,
And wilt the cursed thing remove,
The sin with which I *would* not part,
Which keeps Thy love out of my heart.

2 Thy zeal to save my ransom'd soul
This thing impossible shall do,

And all my love of sin control,
Till love Divine my heart renew,
And force my joyful lips to own
I love Thee, Lord, and Thee alone!

2334. *Peter was grieved because He said unto him, &c.*—xxi. 17.

1 JESUS I long that grief to feel
Surpassing all the joys below,
That gracious grief unspeakable,
Which none but Thy true lovers know,
Grief inexpressible, to be
Suspected of not loving Thee.

2 Beloved by all Thou call'st Thine own,
Dear to the pardon'd soul Thou art;
But hast Thou made Thy goodness known
To me, or visited my heart?
O how shall I the secret find,
Or know the loving Saviour's mind?

3 Question'd if Thee indeed I love,
Saviour, how can I answer Thee?
The truth of my affection prove
Unless Thy Spirit speaks in me,
Reveals and sheds Thy love abroad.
And fills my simple heart with God?

4 O could I to the Lord appeal
For what the Lord in me hath wrought,
And quietly myself conceal,
By man unnoticed and forgot,
Thrice happy that my soul is known,
My love approved by God alone.

2335. *Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou, &c*—xxi. 17.

1 ME Thou know'st my gracious God,
Better than myself I know:

Thou hast shed Thy love abroad,
If I taste that heaven below:
If the grace I truly prove,
Ignorant of its degree,
Whether more or less I love,
Lord I leave it all to Thee.

2 Me Thou know'st; let that suffice,
All my thoughts to Thee appear:
Happy, if Thy glorious eyes
See with smiles my love sincere!
Only let me labour on,
Like the Shepherd good endure
Till I lay the body down,
Witness thus, my love is pure!

2336. *Feed My lambs....Feed My sheep.*—xxi. 15-17.

HELP me, Lord, to feed and keep
First the lambs, and then the sheep,
Lambs to make my tenderest care,
Lambs within my arms to bear:
Both my happy charge I make,
Both I cherish for Thy sake,
Thus in life, and death to prove,
Loved of Thee, that Thee I love.

2337. *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou, &c.*—xxi. 18.

EVERY shepherd under Thee
His love by suffering shows,
Honour, ease, and liberty,
And life itself foregoes;
Life he carries in his hand,
All for Thee accounts but loss,
Ready still at Thy command
To die upon Thy cross.

2338. *Another shall...carry* thee *whither thou, &c.*—xxi. 18.

NATURE innocently may
The bitter cup decline,
While in Jesus' words we pray
Thy will be done, not mine;
Jesus' patient Spirit breathe,
Daily bleed and suffer on,
Die the Saviour's latest death,
And win the martyr's crown.

2339. *This spake He, signifying by what death, &c.*—xxi. 19.

1 LESS by action than by patience
Bring we glory to our God;
Suffering sore and strong temptations,
Sin resisting unto blood,
We the strength of grace discover,
Plainly in our weakness seen,
Magnify our heavenly Lover,
Him who gives such power to men.

2 Thus the truth of God we witness,
Thus the truth of faith we prove,
Gain, and evidence our meetness
For the' inheritance above;
Jesus' perfect mind expressing,
With our Father's will comply,
Bless'd with all the gospel blessing,
Followers of the Lamb, we die.

2340.

1 THE hoary saint for heaven mature
Strengthen'd by this prophetic word,
Those after-sufferings to endure,
In bonds and death pursues his Lord;
His Lord and God he glorifies,
And on a cross like Jesus dies.

2 O for an end like his, whose sin
I have so often made my own,
Ten thousand times unfaithful been
To Christ, as one I ne'er had known,
Ten thousand times by deeds denied,
And trampled on the Crucified.

3 O could I first repent and prove
The bitterness of *Peter's* woe;
By labours of intensest love
My loyalty to Jesus show,
And feed His lambs, and feed His sheep,
Yet still go on my way and weep!

4 Then Lord—but trembling I forbear
To emulate the martyr's crown,
Yet suffer me Thy cross to share,
And lay with life the burden down,
And while Thou dost my spirit receive,
To echo Thy last word, Forgive!

2341. *And when He had spoken this, He saith, &c.*—xxi. 19.

1 So Lord, let it be,
With my soul I agree
To take up my cross, and to imitate Thee;
My Pattern to trace,
And walk in Thy ways,
By the labour of love, and the patience of grace.

2 I have nothing to do,
But to prove my love true,
And in every estate, my Example pursue;
To continue employ'd
For the glory of God,
By expending my life, or by shedding my blood.

3 On Thyself I depend
My steps to attend,
And my goings uphold till I come to the end,
Till I cross the rough tide
With the help of my Guide,
And am lost upon earth, and am found at Thy side.

2342. *Follow Me.*—xxi. 19.

LORD, I would Thy servant be;
Give me power to follow Thee,
Power to die the death Divine,
Power to live for ever Thine.

2343. *Peter...seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved, &c.*—xxi. 20.

1 HE follows Christ unbidden,
With silent steps pursues,
And sees his way to *Eden*,
Who Christ his Pattern views;
He makes no declaration
Of loyalty or zeal,
But feels a strength of passion,
Which saints can only feel.

2 His love by action spoken
Attracts the Saviour's eye;
He follows Christ in token
Of readiness to die:
He gives no explanation
Of that he doth record,
And seeks no approbation
But from his dearest Lord.

3 O that with *John's* affection
I could my Master trace,
Unmoved by man's inspection,
By man's reproach or praise!

Or if my deed I mention
In true simplicity
Rejoice that my intention
Is only known to Thee!

2344. *Peter seeing him saith to Jesus,...and what, &c.*—xxi. 21.

1 OFT Thy weak disciple, I
Turn my wandering thoughts from Thee,
Oft into the future pry,
Ask what shall to-morrow be?
What doth Thy decree intend?
What shall happen to my friend?

2 But suffice the season pass'd:
Now Thy kind rebuke I hear,
All my care and thought at last
After Thee with heart sincere
Humbly, patiently to go;
Nothing save Thy cross to know.

3 From the curious vain desire
Let me, Lord, this moment cease;
Only for myself inquire
How I may my Master please,
Make my Saviour's glories known,
Live and die to God alone.

2345. *If I will that he tarry till I come, what, &c.*—xxi. 22.

1 SECRET things belong to God,
What He will with others do,
Be it in His season show'd;
Only Christ I now pursue,
Nothing seek or know beside
Christ for sinners crucified.

2 What is all the world to me,
Follower of the Lamb Divine!
Closely copying after Thee,
Lord, if I am wholly Thine,
Bless'd with love's simplicity,
What is all the world to me!

2346. *Then went this saying abroad among the, &c.*—XXI. 23.

1 SHALL we on tradition vain
In confidence rely,
Dream with apostolic men
That *John* could never die?
Error from the truth may spring,
From Jesu's own misconstrued word,
Saints in proof of falsehood bring
The saying of their Lord.

2 But by Jesus' word *alone*
The error we gainsay,
Truth *divinely genuine* own,
And legends cast away;
Thus we understand Thy mind,
(Wayfaring men who need not err!)
Scripture, with Thy Spirit, find
Its own interpreter.

2347. *This is the disciple which testifieth of these, &c.*—XXI. 24.

1 As truth His record we receive,
And Christ the one great God believe
The uncreated Word,
The only true and living Way
Which leads us to eternal day,
The vision of our Lord.

2 The innocent atoning Lamb
Who from His Father's bosom came
We faithfully embrace;
Assured His blood for all He shed,
And rose victorious from the dead,
A sinful world to raise.

3 His Spirit in our hearts hath seal'd
The word on which our faith we build,
The word of truth and love;
And Christ the' eternal Life, we know
Was manifested here below
That we may reign above.

4 Fountain of life and light Divine
We comprehend Thy love's design
Thy confessors increase,
The truth we live to ratify,
And witnessing the truth, we die,
In everlasting peace.

2348. *And there are also many other things, &c.*—xxi. 25.

1 If all were left upon record
Which Jesus spoke and did for man,
His every gracious work and word
Not all earth's volumes would contain;
Nor could our narrow hearts receive
His mercies inexhaustible,
Nor could the faithless world believe
That Jesus loved their souls so well.

2 Impossible for man to read
The whole of Jesus' history;
And more than this we cannot need
Who know that Thou O Christ, art He!

The Way, the Truth, the Life Thou art;
And when I live, of Thee possess'd,
Thy Spirit in my loving heart
Supplies and teaches all the rest.

2349. *Amen.*—xxi. 25.

AMEN! we thus our seal set to,
Our faith's entire assent subjoin,
That all and every word is true,
Inspired, infallible, Divine:
That all doth perfectly suffice
To' obtain the end for which 'tis given,
Able through faith to make us wise,
And fit us for our thrones in heaven.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

CHAPTER I.

2350.

1 THE actions of the sent
We here recorded see,
Of every chosen instrument
Raised up, O Lord, by Thee:
In ours and every age
Who dost Thy work revive,
Thou show'st in this prophetic page
How real Christians live.

2 The progress of Thy word
Throughout the nations spread,
The kingdom of Thy grace restored
With wondering joy we read:
To no one time or place
The history is confined,
Large are Thy ancient works of grace,
And take in all mankind.

2351. *All that Jesus began both to do and teach.*—i. 1.

THE life of a true pastor
Is all "To do and teach,"
The follower of his Master
Doth by his practice preach;
His Christlike conversation
The mystery displays,
The gospel of salvation,
The power of heavenly grace.

2352. *To whom also He shewed Himself alive, &c.*—i. 3.

1 To the saints of Thine election
Still Thou dost Thy presence show,
Quicken'd by Thy resurrection,
Thee we daily see and know:
Always with Thy church abiding
As the Comforter attends;
Thee we find Thy people guiding,
Truly talking with Thy friends.

2 While the Holy Spirit reigning
In the souls Thou dost approve,
Teaches us the things pertaining
To the kingdom of Thy love;
Proofs infallible before us
Of our living Lord we have,
Sure Thou wilt to heaven restore us,
Wilt through endless ages save.

2353. *John truly baptized with water; but ye shall, &c.*—i. 5.

1 THE mystical sign
Which our Lord did enjoin
Only once we receive;
But the Spirit, as oft as in Christ we believe;
He offers the grace
To baptize our whole race,
The water to cleanse
Our original filth, and our actual offence.

2 In all places and times
He blots out our crimes,
His Spirit bestows,
And with water of life the believer o'erflows,
The Earnest we feel,
The Witness and Seal,

The joy He imparts
And the love shed abroad in our purified hearts.

2354. *Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost, &c.*—i. 5.

1 How many days He doth not tell,
That looking every day to feel
The truth of Jesus' word,
They might, whene'er the Spirit came
Be found in a right humble frame,
And ready for their Lord.

2 Thou dost not give us to foreknow
The time Thou wilt Thy grace bestow,
Thy Spirit of purity,
That gasping for our first estate
Our souls may every moment wait
To be all fill'd with Thee.

2355. *Wilt Thou at this time restore again the, &c.*—i. 6.

1 May I not, Lord, of Thee inquire
Wilt Thou restore the kingdom now,
While fainting through intense desire
At Thy dear wounded feet I bow,
And open wide my longing heart
For all Thou hast and all Thou art?

2 Thy peace to rule my heart and mind
May I not now expect to know?
The' original dominion find,
The joy of heaven begun below,
The power that makes an end of sin,
The' eternal righteousness brought in.

3 If to this selfsame thing, O Lord,
Thou hast my willing spirit wrought,
Pronounce the kingdom now restored;
And, saved from every evil thought,

Let me this happy moment prove
The' omnipotence of faithful Love.

2356. *It is not for you to know the times or the, &c.*—i. 7.

1 I WOULD not, Lord, Thy Spirit bind,
Or rashly bold prescribe to Thee,
But wait submissive and resign'd
Thy kingdom when Thou wilt to see;
The seasons of Thy grace are known,
The times of love to Thee alone.

2 Thy promised grace I dare not say
Thou wilt, Thou *must* this instant give,
But humbly for Thy coming stay,
My misery with Thy mercy leave,
Thy wisdom trust, and truth, and power,
Which sets the day, and sees the hour.

3 No more presumptuous to foretell
Or fix the' appearing of my Lord,
Till Thou these heavy clouds dispel,
Darkly I hang upon Thy word,
Each moment for Thy presence sigh,
Whose glory fills both earth and sky.

4 Surely if Thou direct my heart
Into the expectation true,
Thou wilt to me Thy grace impart,
Thy Spirit's power in season due,
The forfeited dominion give,
And King in all Thy subjects live.

2357. *Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the, &c.*—i. 12.

1 THE view of heavenly things
Solid advantage brings;
But with a ready heart,
When order'd to depart,

We give our contemplation o'er,
And by obedience profit more.

2 The' ascending Son of God
Such grace on man bestow'd:
Its first effect they feel
Render'd more teachable:
And grace to all His church is given,
Which bows us to the voice of Heaven.

2258. *They went up into an upper room, where abode, &c.*—i. 13.

1 WHO can resist the Saviour's word,
The power of heaven's almighty Lord?
To stay its course in vain are join'd
The rage and wisdom of mankind;
When God commands it must prevail
O'er all the strength of earth and hell.

2 See from a single chamber spread
The gospel runs with rapid speed,
As lightning darted from the skies,
To temples, houses, streets it flies,
In markets, prisons, fields, and inns,
In camps, and courts the hearers wins.

3 Chariots it doth and ships ascend,
To villages and cities bend,
To islands wanders unconfined,
And challenges the ransom'd kind,
Asserts an universal claim,
And seizes all in Jesu's name.

4 *Heathens* it apprehends and *Jews*,
People and magistrates subdues,
O'er soldiers and o'er generals reigns,
Eunuchs and slaves and captives gains,

Women and babes its net receives,
And faith to stubborn sailors gives.

5 Swiftly it runs from east to west,
Its power throughout the earth confess'd ;
From realm to realm, from sea to sea,
Spreads the Redeemer's victory,
And glories finally to' o'ercome
Proud *Athens* and imperial *Rome.*

2359 *These all continued with one accord in, &c.*—i. 14.

SEE the whole church retired in prayer,
In faith, and unity, and love
Expect that other Comforter
To bring His kingdom from above,
Of Christ the Lord to testify,
His precious promises to seal,
His words bring back, His blood apply,
And all the depths of God reveal.

2360. *With His brethren.*—i. 14.

THE kinsmen of the Lord
Whom first they disbelieved,
The proofs of Christ to life restored
With faith at length received :
By their examples taught,
Deists accept His grace,
And whom ye once a madman thought,
Your Lord and God confess.

2361. *Which was guide to them that took Jesus.*—i. 16.

TREMENDOUS change ! the reverend guide
Of souls doth Jesus' murderers head :
And oft his successors, allied
With hell, the band of ruffians lead :

Their Lord they barter and betray,
The foremost of His foes appear,
Seize and insult Him every day,
And slaughter in His members here.

2362. *This man purchased a field with the reward, &c.*—i. 18.

TERRIBLE Thy judgments are
On those who wealth procure
At their Lord's expense, and dare
Defraud Thee in the poor;
Greedy priests who pant for gain,
Partakers of the traitor's hire,
They their full reward obtain
In everlasting fire.

2363. *Must one be ordained to be a witness with us, &c.*—i. 22.

TWELVE at first must testify
Jesus risen from the dead;
Millions now their place supply,
Glad proclaim their living Head:
O might I their joy increase,
Soon the Holy Ghost receive,
Number'd with the witnesses
Least of all the faithful live!

2364. *Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of, &c.*—i. 24, 25.

1 TEACHER of hearts, 'tis Thine alone
Thine officers to' ordain,
Point out Thy instruments, unknown
To undiscerning men;
Our apostolic guides apprize
Of Thine unseen decree,
And stir them up to recognize
The men design'd by Thee.

2 The men whom Thou hast inly moved
Their charge to undertake,
And toil for precious souls, beloved
For their Redeemer's sake;
Thy chosen ministers reveal
With whom Thou always art,
And then their saving gospel seal
On every listening heart.

2365. *That he might go to his own place.*—i. 25.

He made the direful place his own,
For devils, not for man prepared,
Predestined by himself alone,
The traitor claim'd a fiend's reward,
Author of his own ruin fell
A bold intruder into hell.

2366. *They gave forth their lots; and the lot fell, &c.*—i. 26.

1 When reason can no further go,
And providential openings fail,
Dost Thou not, Lord, Thy counsel show,
Thy secret mind infallible,
To souls who in Thy ways stand still,
And dread to miss Thy perfect will?

2 In solemn doubts of import great,
We know, Thou wilt for us decide,
Thy people waiting at Thy feet
By sure unerring wisdom guide,
Dispose the lot, Thine own decree
To' explain, and clearly speak for Thee.

CHAPTER II.

2367. *When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they, &c.*—ii. 1.

GOD who on *Sinai's* top came down
The law of fear to' engrave in stone,
Returns all-gracious from above
To teach mankind the law of love,
And by His Spirit's power imparts
And writes it on His people's hearts.

2368. *Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as, &c.*—ii. 2.

1 JEHOVAH doth the heavens bow,
The Lord is in the whirlwind now!
His terror first alarms, and wakes,
With sudden dread the conscience shakes,
That sinners may His mercy prove,
And lose their fears in pardoning love.

2 See in the strong impetuous sign
The' almighty power of grace Divine!
The wind which on our spirits blows,
And moves, and pierces, and o'erthrows,
Refreshes, fills, and purifies,
And swiftly lifts us to the skies!

2369. *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues, &c.*—ii. 3.

1 DIVIDED tongues of fire
The burning Spirit express,
Who doth His messengers inspire,
And gives His word success:
Active as darted flame
It flies with rapid speed,
As lightning with resistless aim
It strikes the sinner dead.

2 That Fire inflames the heart,
Expands and spreads within,
Severs the pure and drossy part,
And burns up all our sin ;
It consecrates the soul
A living sacrifice,
And offers up the saint a whole
Burnt-offering to the skies.

2370. *They...began to speak with other tongues, as the, &c.*—ii. 4.

FILL'D with the Spirit of holiness
One family is join'd
With all the tongues of earth to praise
The Saviour of mankind ;
Earnest of the whole world employ'd
In their own tongues to sing,
In season due, the' incarnate God,
The saints' eternal King.

2371. *The multitude came together, and were, &c.*—ii. 6.

1 TONGUES at first were multiplied,
Proud aspiring worms to' abase,
Rebels to confound, divide,
Wide disperse the' audacious race;
God by different languages
Baffled their gigantic power,
Bade their impious project cease,
Stopp'd the heaven-invading tower.

2 Tongues are multiplied again,
(While our God in love comes down,)
To collect the sons of men
Reconcile the world in one,
Make us each with each agree,
Pride the cause of strife remove,

Teach our hearts humility,
Join us all in faith and love.

2372. *We do hear them speak in our tongues the, &c.*—ii. 11.

1 On the great auspicious day
When He forms His church below,
Every tongue should homage pay,
His stupendous mercies show:
Meet and right it is, that all
Should in one thanksgiving join'd
On the common Saviour call,
Praise the Lord of all mankind.

2 Mighty miracles of love,
Jesus, Thou for us hast wrought,
God descended from above,
By Thy blood the nations bought;
Raised Thou dost Thy members raise,
Pour Thy Spirit from on high,
Fill the vessels of Thy grace,
Fit, and bear us to the sky.

2373. *Others mocking said.*—ii. 13.

Persecution's progress see!
The worldly war begun
With contempt and mockery,
In cavilling goes on,
Then the chafed oppressors fret,
Proceed the saints in bonds to lay;
Then the confessors they beat,
And then the martyrs slay.

2374. *These men are full of new wine.*—ii. 13.

The world fulfil their Saviour's word,
A winebibber they call'd their Lord;

His servants now they drunkards name,
And all His saints the honour claim,
Fill'd by His Spirit from above,
With power, sobriety, and love.

2375.

1 THE modern infidels are bold
In comments to surpass the old.
With blind unskilful impudence
They tell us what religion means,
And causes natural assign
To' effects miraculous, Divine.

2 Opposers of the Spirit's course
They His ascribe to fancy's force,
His peace is—"a complexion good,"
His love —"a milkiness of blood,"
And all our strange delights and pains
"The texture of the nerves" explains.

3 Joy in the Lord, or grief confess'd,
Is "spirits elated, or depress'd;"
The truths of grace delusion seem
To them, and faith "a madman's dream":
No difference can their wisdom find
For all is dark, when hearts are blind!

2376. *Peter, standing up...lifted up his voice, and, &c.*—ii. 14.

1 FRIGHTEN'D by a servant's word
Who Christ so late denied,
Boldly now he owns his Lord,
By sinners crucified,
Publishes before his foes
The saving power of Jesus' name,
To the' assembled nations shows
The glories of the Lamb.

2 This the work of Thy right hand,
Thy Spirit's work I see!
This shall make my weakness stand,
Shall soon embolden me.
Saviour, at Thy bleeding cross
I wait; and faithfully expect
From the same almighty Cause
The same Divine effect.

2377. *These are not drunken, as ye suppose, &c.*—ii. 15.

1 SCOURGED by the world's opprobrious tongue,
Silent, I bear the private wrong
With meek humility;
Reviled, I answer not a word,
Assured that Thou, my righteous Lord,
Wilt speak at last for me.

2 But when the honour of Thy name
Thy cause and church my service claim,
Commanded to contend
I must the' imputed crime disown,
Trample the foul accuser down,
And Thee, and Thine defend.

2378. *I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.*—ii. 17.

1 THE Lord Most-High on earth was seen,
The God whom angel hosts adore,
The Word was flesh, and dwelt with men,
His Spirit on all flesh to pour,
Sinners unto Himself to take,
And spiritual of carnal make.

2 The Spirit of that heavenly Man
Resides in all who now believe,
While fill'd with love, and born again,
His mind and nature we receive,

We put Jehovah's image on,
And then ascend the' eternal throne.

2379. *On My servants and on My handmaidens I, &c.*—ii. 18.

AFTER He hath sent His Son
He doth His Spirit send;
Who the benefits unknown
Can fully comprehend?
Him in whom the Spirit dwells
With all His grace and boundless power
When in us our God reveals,
Our God can give no more!

2380. *I will shew wonders in heaven above, &c.*—ii. 19, 20.

1 WHEN the great God His Spirit pours
Judgment attends in flaming showers,
To plague the disobedient race,
And vindicate His slighted grace.

2 His wrath He with His love reveals,
The vessels of destruction fills,
The bold despisers of His word,
And pleads His cause with fire and sword.

2381. *Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord, &c.*—ii. 21.

1 IN this Divine epitome,
Father, we Thy goodness see,
Who kindly dost declare,
The way through which to heaven we go,
And all our duty here below
Summ'd up in faith and prayer.

2 Father, the promised bliss I claim,
Thee invoke in Jesus' name;
For Jesus' sake forgive,
Save me from sin, and earth, and hell,
Stamp with Thy hallowing Spirit's seal,
And to Thy throne receive.

2382. *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel, &c.* — ii. 23.

1 LORD, whoe'er resist Thy will,
By opposing it fulfil;
Compassing their own design,
Blindly they accomplish Thine.
Contradict their own intent,
Cause the good they never meant.

2 Sinners' hearts are in Thy hand,
Subjected to Thy command,
Free and uncontroll'd in ill
When Thine only Son they kill,
Then they serve Thy love's decree,
Do the thing ordain'd by Thee.

3 Prince of life, for sinners slain,
Who Thy passion can explain?
Love, and hatred in excess,
Human, hellish wickedness
With celestial goodness join,
With philanthropy Divine!

4 Earth and heaven and hell agree
Nailing Jesus to the tree,
All conspire for human good
Shedding my Redeemer's blood,
Blood which first my pardon buys,
Speaks me then to paradise.

2383. *Whom God hath raised up, having loosed, &c.* — ii. 24.

1 WHY should believers droop?
The Father of our Lord
Again hath raised Him up,
The dead to life restored:
Jesus, *His* mortal pangs are o'er,
He lives, He lives to die no more.

2 It was not possible
That *Hades* should hold fast
The God who saves from hell,
And death destroys at last;
Long in the grave He could not lie,
Or Life Himself for ever die.

2384. *David speaketh concerning Him, I, &c.*—ii. 25–28.

1 JESUS the royal prophet's Lord,
Sum of every written word
And prophecy Thou art:
The Psalmist spake of Thee alone,
And makes to all Thy people known
The tempers of Thy heart.

2 Contemplating the great reward,
The celestial bliss prepared
For His co-equal Son,
Thou always saw'st the Father stand
To hold Thee up by Thy right hand,
And lift Thee to His throne.

3 Thou didst exult His love to know,
Gladly publish it below,
While ready to return.
Thy sacred flesh reposed in hope
That God would surely raise Thee up
On the third joyful morn.

4 He would not have Thy soul to wait
In that separate estate,
When the third day was come,
He could not suffer it to be,
Or let Thy sinless body see
Corruption in the tomb.

5 The paths of life to Thee He show'd :
Very God of very God,
His living Character,
Thou didst with majesty Divine
The Brightness of His glory shine,
And at His side appear.

2385. *This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof, &c.*—ii. 32.

1 Our Saviour and Head
Is return'd from the dead,
His witnesses we
Declare Him alive, who expired on the tree:
The' omnipotent power
Of our God did restore
His crucified Son,
And received Him again to a share of His throne.

2 His Spirit attests
The truth in our breasts ;
The Witness and Seal
And the rapturous earnest of heaven we feel.
We acknowledge the prayer
Of our Advocate there,
Who the Comforter gives.
And Himself in His people eternally lives.

2386. *Let all the house of Israel know assuredly, &c.*—ii. 36.

1 Let the whole house of *Israel* know
Jehovah hath extoll'd His Son,
That Jesus crucified below
Who laid the general ransom down,
His Father hath supremely magnified
And raised Him up to sit in triumph at His side.

2 All power He to the Man hath given,
That ye may surely know and praise
The glorious Lord of earth and heaven,
Sublime in majesty and grace,
Him Prophet, Priest, and King with rapture own,
And shout your God restored to His eternal throne.

3 Jesus, if Thou the faith impart,
Assured we of Thy Godhead are,
We find Thee praying in our heart,
We hear our heavenly Teacher there,
Thy partners in celestial places sit,
And reign with the Most-High—adoring at Thy feet.

2387. *They were pricked in their heart, and said, &c.*—ii. 37.

1 COMPUNCTION of heart, If Jesus bestow,
And kindly impart The sorrowful woe,
Our dying condition If mercy reveals,
We seek a Physician Who penitents heals.

2 O what shall we do Who Jesus have slain;
Have murder'd anew That meek Son of Man?
Of all we inquire, Till Christ from above
The answer inspire, The sense of His love.

2388. *Repent, and be baptized every one of you, &c.*—ii. 38, 39.

1 TURNING with contrite hearts to God,
Plunged in the depths of Jesus' name,
Pardon of sins through faith bestow'd,
Through faith the Holy Ghost we claim,
That Spirit of the Lord Most-High,
That mystic Gift unspeakable,
To help and cheer and sanctify
In all believing souls shall dwell.

2 The promised Spirit of holiness
To every age and nation given,

Father, we faithfully embrace,
And wait His sure descent from heaven,
Who now with willing mind obey
Thy gospel's, and Thy Spirit's call,
We find Him sent in this our day,
We feel the promise is for all.

2389. *And with many other words did he...exhort, &c.*—ii. 40.

1 While the glad tidings we proclaim,
Preach that all through Jesu's name
May full redemption have,
If He the given word apply,
We urge, exhort, and testify
Yourselves ye sinners save.

2 Come out from those who know not God,
Those that trample on His blood
Who died that they might live;
This froward world this moment quit.
And wait at Jesus' wounded feet
Your pardon to receive.

3 Touch'd by the blood your souls are clean
From the guilt and power of sin,
Completely saved by grace;
Ye then from faith to faith go on,
O'ertake your Saviour on His throne,
And see Him face to face.

2390. *Then they that gladly received his word were, &c.*—ii. 41.

Open their hearts, almighty Lord,
That sinners may receive
With joyful readiness Thy word,
And by Thy gospel live:

Thousands in this and every day
Unto Thy people join,
And let their spotless lives display
The power of faith Divine.

2391. *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles', &c* —ii. 42

1 In our degenerate years revive
The wonders of Thy grace,
And let us in affection strive
With the primeval race :
In apostolic doctrine found,
(The doctrine from above.)
And build us on the solid ground
Of Thy redeeming love.

2 O may we constantly abide
As hearers in Thy school,
(Thy Spirit our unerring Guide;
Thy word our sacred rule,)
Gladly supply each other's wants,
Propriety disown,
One in the fellowship of saints,
With all Thy members one.

3 On us the Christian feast bestow,
The sacramental bread,
That daily we Thy death may show,
And on Thy body feed ;
Till Thou, whose passion we record,
On earth again appear,
And reign our dear triumphant Lord,
With all Thine ancients here.

4 On all the house of *Jacob's* race,
On *Sion's* mourners pour

The Spirit of supplicating grace
In one unceasing shower;
That wrestling on with faith and hope
We may in prayer abide,
Till Thou descend to take us up,
And place us by Thy side.

2392. *And fear came upon every soul.*—ii. 43.

1 SAVIOUR, in Thy church appear
All opposers to control,
Still alarm with sacred fear
Every persecuting soul;
Let the world again confounded
Scarce presume to stir or move,
Till we in the faith are grounded
Rooted fast in humble love.

2 Heathens stand amazed, affrighted,
When Thy people they survey
As a marshal'd host united,
Terrible in firm array;
When the shield of faith we bear
Mindful of our dying Lord,
Prevalent in mighty prayer,
Brandishing Thy Spirit's sword!

3 When the church of Thine election
Rising from the wilderness,
Simply full of pure affection
Lives like those of ancient days;
When the universal mother
Gathers all her sons in one,
When the Christians love each other,
Satan tumbles from his throne.

2393. *And many wonders and signs were done by, &c.*—ii. 43.

1 No outward miracles we claim,
Whose God and gospel are the same,
Yet trust our faithful Lord
His truth and mercy to reveal,
And pardon on the conscience seal
Through His attested word.

2 Whene'er we preach the dying God,
And free forgiveness through His blood,
The gospel-grace is given,
Spiritual signs are daily shown,
And God the Holy Ghost sends down
In saving power from heaven.

2394. *And sold their possessions and goods, &c.*—ii. 45.

1 How happy the men Who born from above
Were first to maintain The freedom of love;
Who left an example Ourselves to forego,
And taught us to trample On all things below.

2 Believers of old Who Jesus confess'd,
Lands, houses they sold With all they possess'd;
The miserly pleasure They dared to despise,
And laid up their treasure And hearts in the skies.

2395. *And they, continuing daily with one, &c*—ii. 46, 47.

1 What a beautiful sight
When the children of light
In their primitive purity shone!
The disciples of old
Never stray'd from the fold,
But they all were united in one.

2 To the temple of God
Where His honour abode,
They daily rejoiced to repair;
And the Lord of the place
Daily show'd them His face
In the house of thanksgiving and prayer.

3 When the Spirit was come,
He attended them home;
And performing to Jesus their vows,
In the breaking of bread
They remember'd their Head,
And a church was in every house.

4 The affections of grace
Were with prayer and with praise
Carried on in their every employ;
Each meal was a feast,
And their hearts they express'd
In songs of angelical joy.

5 That gladness of heart
Which their Lord did impart
With simplicity pure from above,
To posterity show'd
The whole counsel of God,
The original triumph of love.

6 Their impotent foes
Could no longer oppose,
Or withhold their extorted esteem,
But were forced to give place
To a torrent of grace,
And were all carried down with the stream.

2396 *The Lord added to the church daily such as, &c.*—ii. 47.

1 THE church in ancient days
Was sinners saved from sin,
And souls through Jesus' grace
Were daily taken in ;
Pardon and faith together given
Threw open wide the gates of heaven.

2 Saviour, we know, Thou art
In every age the same :
Now Lord in ours exert
The virtue of Thy name ;
And daily through Thy word increase
The blood-besprinkled witnesses.

3 The people saved below
From every sinful stain,
Shall multiply and grow,
If Thy command ordain ;
And one into a thousand rise,
And spread Thy praise through earth and skies.

4 In many a soul, and mine,
Thou hast display'd Thy power;
But to Thy people join
Ten thousand, thousand more ;
Saved from the guilt and strength of sin,
In life and heart entirely clean.

5 Saved by Thy blood applied
The moment we believe,
Let us in Thee abide
And grace for grace receive,
Till sunk into a perfect man,
And meet in all Thy joy to reign.

CHAPTER III.

2397. *Now Peter and John went up together into the temple.*—iii. 1.

1 WHO Jesus our Example know,
And apostolic teachers trace,
We gladly to the temple go,
Frequent the consecrated place
At every solemn hour of prayer,
And meet the God of mercy there.

2 Still at the stated hours we pray,
And openly our God adore,
The Lamb presenting every day
Our sins who on His body bore;
As incense sweet our prayers arise,
Mingled with His great sacrifice.

3 His offering pure we call to mind,
There on the golden altar laid,
Whose Godhead with the manhood join'd,
For every soul atonement made;
And have whate'er we ask of God,
Through faith in that all-saving blood.

2398. *And a certain man lame from his mother's, &c.*—iii. 2, 3.

1 I IN this emblem see
My own unhappy case,
My nature's poverty
And utter helplessness;
So impotent to good I am,
Who from the womb a cripple came.

2 Here at the Temple's gate
(The real Temple,) I
A feeble beggar wait,
And for His mercy cry,

Who only can my wants relieve,
And power and peace, and pardon give.

3 Day after day distress'd
On Jesus I attend,
And urging my request
Besiege the sinner's Friend;
In patient prayer expect a cure,
Till He pronounce my pardon sure.

2399. *And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him, &c.*—iii 4, 5.

1 MASTER, Thy pitying eye
Is fasten'd now on me,
Thou bidd'st my soul rely,
And look for help to Thee:
To Thee I steadfastly give heed,
For all the good Thou know'st I need.

2 I every moment hope
To hear Thy pardoning word,
Mine eyes are lifted up,
Are ever to the Lord,
On Thee my fix'd regard I turn,
And for the consolation mourn.

2400. *Silver and gold have I none: but such as I, &c.*—iii. 6, 7.

1 THOU seest my helplessness,
Thou hear'st my sad complaint;
The riches of Thy grace
And nothing else I want,
Those riches which the world despise,
Are all I wish, and all I prize.

2 The blessing I implore
Kindly vouchsafe to give,
Or through Thy servants poor,
Or by Thyself relieve,

Raise by Thine own immediate word,
And speak my soul to health restored.

3 Thyself lay hold on me,
And lifted up by grace
And apprehending Thee
I walk in all Thy ways,
More active as I further go,
And swifter than a bounding roe.

4 A sinner poor and lame,
At Thy command I rise;
Thine efficacious Name
With springing life supplies,
Thy Name, the moment I believe,
Doth strength and perfect soundness give.

2401. *And he leaping up stood, and walked, and, &c.*—iii. 8.

1 JESUS through faith alone
I answer to Thy call;
I stand, and walk, and run,
And leap o'er every wall,
Enter with joy the hallow'd place,
And loudly sing my Saviour's praise.

2 Both strength and righteousness
In Thee I surely have,
Gladly I Thee confess
Omnipotent to save,
My helpless unbelief to heal,
And pardon on my conscience seal.

2402. *And all the people saw him walking and praising God.*—iii. 9.

WHO our weaknesses have known
Should our conversion see,

While with joyful lips we own
The name that sets us free,
By our walk the change sincere,
By holiness of life we prove,
While we humbly persevere
In gratitude and love.

2403. *And they were filled with wonder.*—iii. 10.

STRANGER far the miracle
Which doth a soul convert,
When our Lord vouchsafes to heal
Our impotence of heart:
Outward miracles are done
That we the' Invisible may see,
God who all His power makes known
In man's infirmity.

2404. *The people ran together unto them...greatly wondering.*—iii. 11.

1 THROUGH the ministry of man
Whoe'er their cure receive,
Fondly they at first detain,
And to the preacher cleave:
Farther taught by grace Divine,
The Author of all good they own,
Every instrument resign,
And cleave to Christ alone.

2 Lord, in these Thy Spirit's days
Thou dost Thy work renew,
Daily miracles of grace
On helpless sinners show:
O might all the thoughtless crowd
With wonder struck my change to see,
Flock into the courts of God,
And run for faith to Thee!

2405. *His name through faith in His name hath, &c.*—iii. 16.

1 His name through faith alone
The halt and lame hath heal'd,
Impotent souls with life unknown,
With heavenly vigour fill'd:
His name believed and loved
Did miracles perform,
And sin's infirmity removed
From many a helpless worm:

2 The witnesses appear
Even now before your face,
Restored to perfect soundness here
Through reconciling grace:
Jesus the faith bestow'd
On men ye see and know,
Who daily praise their pardoning God,
And walk with Christ below.

2406. *Through ignorance ye did* it, *as* did *also your, &c.*—iii. 17.

1 Sinners what have ye done
In nature's ignorance!
Your crime, ye unbelievers own,
Your unperceived offence:
Ye have exposed to shame
The' eternal Son of God,
Murder'd afresh the slaughter'd Lamb,
And trampled on His blood.

2 Your learned rulers too
Who sit in *Moses'* chair,
Have crucified their Lord anew;
And still their Saviour tear:

Alas, they know not yet,
In sin and error bred,
Who spitefully the members treat,
They persecute the Head.

2407. *Those things, which God before had shewed, &c.*—iii. 18

1 THE sinful will of man
Without his own design
Subserves, if so our God ordain,
The holy will Divine:
Our God's almighty grace
O'errules the bounded ill,
To answer His great purposes,
And all His thoughts fulfil.

2 Of sinners He foretells
The wickedness foreknown,
Permits their act but not compels,
Their act is all their own.
Who can the wisdom sound
Of His eternal mind,
That makes my Saviour's mortal wound
The life of all mankind!

2408. *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that, &c.*—iii. 19, 20

1 O THAT we could to God present
Our hearts by true contrition rent
Through His beloved Son;
To Christ our mighty Fortress turn,
Look upon Him we pierced and mourn,
Till our Desire come down!

2 Jesus through Thy atoning blood
Blot out this thick, incumbent cloud,
Which hides the face of Heaven;

Thou art that Presence of the Lord :
Descend, Divine Eternal Word,
And speak our sins forgiven.

3 Whene'er Thou dost our crimes efface,
The times of sweet refreshing grace,
The Comforter is come,
The Pledge, the Witness, and the Seal,
That God again on earth shall dwell
And take His exiles home.

2409. *Whom the heaven must receive until the, &c.*—iii. 21.

1 THE body He did once assume,
Did of the virgin's substance take,
The flesh which swell'd her sacred womb,
And suffer'd torment for our sake,
Join'd with the Deity is gone,
And sits on His eternal throne.

2 The body pure of flesh and blood,
Subject no more to death or pain,
Sublime at the right hand of God,
Doth in perpetual rest remain :
Its virtues, fruits, effects we prove ;
Yet still the body dwells above.

3 Enrobed with majesty and power,
It fills and brightens all the sky,
Till coming all things to restore,
And visible to mortal eye,
Earth He renews by sovereign grace,
And shows the world His glorious face.

4 Immortal Son of Man, appear,
Our Maker, on Thine azure seat,
Begin the great sabbatic year,
Thy people spotless and complete

In full millennial joy maintain,
And then in Thine eternal reign!

2 | 10. *A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up, &c.*—iii. 22.

1 *MOSES* the meek man of God,
A type of Christ was seen,
Head of faithful *Israel* stood,
And guide of sinful men,
Show'd as prophet of the Lord
The land to all believers given,
Herald of Jehovah's word,
Interpreter of Heaven.

2 *Israel* he from *Ægypt* led,
But must to Jesus yield;
Jesus like His brethren made,
His brethren far excell'd;
Moses form'd the church of old,
And one peculiar nation join'd;
Christ received into His fold
The souls of all mankind.

3 Soon as *Moses* prophesied,
Israel's deliverance came;
Soon as Jesus spake, and died
The sacrificial Lamb,
Life, the grand effect, ensued;
That blood for every soul was spilt,
Purged that all-redeeming blood
The universal guilt.

4 Those who quaked and could not bear
Jehovah's thundering word,
Ask'd that *Moses* might declare
The dictates of his Lord:

Wearied by the law of fire,
Much more the slaves of guilty fear
Fly from *Sinai*, and desire
The voice of Christ to hear.

5 *Moses* truly minister'd,
A servant, not a Son;
Christ, who in our flesh appear'd,
Came from His Father down;
Equal to the Lord Most-High,
By all the heavenly hosts confess'd,
Re-enthroned beyond the sky,
Our God for ever bless'd.

2411. *Him shall ye hear in all things.*—iii. 22.

LORD with open heart and ear
We would Thy law receive,
All Thy gracious sayings hear,
And savingly believe,
All Thy kind commands obey,
The pattern trace which Thou hast given,
Walk in Thee, the Truth, the Way,
The Life, and Heaven of heaven.

2412. *Every soul, which will not hear that prophet, &c.*—iii. 23.

1 YE adders deaf, who stop your ears
Against the' immortal Prophet's voice,
(That voice which dying sinners cheers,
And bids our broken hearts rejoice,)
Who nature's perfect law maintain,
Your own weak reason idolize,
And dare the' incarnate God disdain,
The God who made both earth and skies.

2 Ye men who Christ profess to know,
And vainly call Him God and Lord,

But will not in His footsteps go,
Or hearken to His Spirit's word,
Deists and formalists, who slight
His love, expect His wrath to feel,
Cut off and banish'd from His sight
Ye both shall shortly meet in hell.

2413. *All the prophets...foretold of these days.*—iii. 24.

THE seers and holy men of old
Have spoken of these gospel-days,
The kingdom of their Lord foretold,
The reigning power of Jesus' grace;
O might their prophecies on me,
On every soul be soon fulfill'd,
Redeem'd from all iniquity,
Rejoicing in our pardon seal'd.

2414. *Ye are the children,...&c.*—iii. 25, 26.

1 FIRST to the *Jews* was *Shiloh* sent,
Power effectual to repent
On *Israel* He bestow'd,
With pardon and salvation bless'd,
His murderers from their sins released,
And wash'd them in His blood.

2 He now is sent to every heart,
Every soul He would convert
In this accepted day;
And heathens now are justified,
And feel through faith the blood applied,
Which takes our sins away.

2415. *God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent, &c.*—iii. 26.

1 THE God of all grace,
To restore a lost race,

Hath raised up His Son,
And sent Him again in the Comforter down.
Ye sinners, believe,
And your Saviour receive,
By His Father bestow'd,
That ye all may return to the bosom of God.

2 God sent Him to bless
With unspeakable peace
The children of men,
That ye here may His favour and image regain :
'Twas His only design,
By the Spirit Divine
To redeem you from woe,
And indulge with a taste of your heaven below.

3 He is ready to prove
The truth of His love :
And when Jesus reveals
Your pardon obtain'd, He His office fulfils ;
He bids you be clean
From the nature of sin
Through the power of His blood,
And He makes your hearts happy, by making them good.

4 Repent and believe
And the blessing receive,
The felicity pure,
The salvation of God which shall always endure.
Your Saviour embrace,
With His fulness of grace,
And hold fast the high Prize,
And live upon earth as they live in the skies.

CHAPTER IV.

2416. *The priests,...and the Sadducees, came upon them, &c.*—iv. 1.

ENVIOUS and wicked priests appear
In every age, the church to' oppose,
'Gainst every gospel-minister
They head the troop of Jesus' foes;
Zealots and *Sadducees* combine
The truth by violence to suppress,
Deists and priests their forces join
To silence all the witnesses.

2417. *Being grieved that they taught the people.*—iv 2.

HIRELINGS without remorse or pain
Dare to their passions sacrifice
The truth, the precious souls of men,
And bar their passage to the skies.
The preacher's mouth, the hearer's ears,
They stop through a malignant zeal,
And strive as Satan's messengers
Heaven to defraud, and people hell.

2418. *And they laid hands on them, and put* them *in, &c.*—iv. 3.

WHO preach the truth, the gospel-word,
Must no repose expect to know,
To suffer like their patient Lord
Is all their recompence below,
Their suffering is their mission's seal,
They glory in captivity,
If Christ thereby His grace reveal,
And set the' imprison'd spirits free.

2419. *The number of the men was about five thousand.*—iv. 4.

1 FIVE thousand added in a day,
Born by the Spirit from above,
The energy of grace display,
The strength of their Redeemer's love.

The welcome truth they all receive,
Joyful to know their sins forgiven ;
Five thousand souls at once believe,
And banquet on the bread from heaven.

2 The word is crown'd with more success,
Because the preacher suffers more,
While God doth by the flock's increase
Augment His patient servants' power ;
His servants' constancy and zeal
Confirm the followers of their Lord,
And all conspire to work His will,
And spread through earth His pardoning word.

2420. *Their rulers, and elders, and scribes...were, &c.*—iv. 5, 6.

Power, wisdom, learning all combine,
Churchmen and seculars agree
To frustrate, Lord, Thy love's design,
And stop the men sent forth by Thee :
But lo, by all the world forsook,
Like those who first Thy grace made known,
With stronger confidence we look
For promised help to Thee alone.

2421. *They asked, By what power, or by what name, &c.*—iv. 7.

1 God permits His works to be
By worldly judges tried,
Shall not ours the scrutiny
Of sinful men abide?
Though Thy hand therein appears,
Thy hand, O God, they will not own,
Sentencing the messengers,
For what our Lord hath done.

2 Who our conduct scrutinize,
For this we dare not blame,

But because they shut their eyes,
Determined to condemn.
To the truth they will not yield,
Or proof infallible receive,
Though ten thousand souls are heal'd,
And to Thy glory live.

2422. *If we this day be examined of the good deed, &c.*—iv. 9.

1 Do ye not still, ye ruling men,
Permit that open vice should reign,
And courtly wickedness;
Yet while the evil is allow'd,
Ye turn your zeal against the good,
And all its friends oppress.

2 Ye now into our deeds inquire,
Not through a laudable desire
To praise and imitate,
But matter of offence to find,
(With sin, the world, and Satan join'd,)
And blast the good ye hate.

2423. *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people, &c.*—iv. 10.

1 RULERS in church and state give ear;
And all the house of *Israel*, hear,
Hear His appointed witnesses,
And Christ the crucified confess;
Jesus the Lord, like us, receive,
Who lives and shall for ever live.

2 Author of immortality
By sin ye nail'd Him to the tree,
But God hath raised again His Son,
And made His life on sinners known,
And souls diseased, and spirits lame,
Are daily heal'd through Jesus' name.

3 Ye see the wonders of His hand,
The men that in your presence stand!
One step towards heaven they could not go;
But now the power of faith they know;
They walk in Christ, their feet are sure,
And pardon brings their perfect cure.

2424. *There is none other name...whereby we must, &c.*—iv. 12.

1 Be it to all the nations known,
Salvation is in Christ alone!
Jesus did every soul redeem,
And all the saved are saved by Him;
His only name can cancel sin,
His only blood can wash us clean.

2 Believing into Jesus' name
Through grace already saved I am,
I have redemption in His blood,
I have the peace and life of God;
The Spirit doth His mind impart,
And plant His nature in my heart.

3 Sinners, believe, and now be free
From sin, and Satan's tyranny,
From earth, and curse, and death, and fear,
Redeem'd by faith in Jesus here;
His name, His love, His nature given,
Plucks you from hell, and lifts to heaven.

2425.

1 No, there is no other name,
Feelingly convinced I am;
Unredeem'd to Jesus cry,
Help, or unredeem'd I die.

2 Sole Deliverer of Thine own,
Help is laid on Thee alone :
Thine the power to pardon sin,
Thine to bid my heart be clean.

3 Virtue still proceeds from Thee,
Vital grace, and purity ;
Thou the open Fountain art,
Wash with blood my filthy heart.

4 Hear a desperate sinner pray,
Tear me from myself away :
Do what only Thou canst do,
Make my heart entirely new.

5 Save me that I may proclaim
All the wonders of Thy name ;
Live by deeds to testify
Jesus is the Lord Most-High.

6 Jesus is my light within,
Rooting out the seeds of sin,
Is salvation from above,
Peace, and power, and perfect love.

2426. *They saw the boldness of Peter and John, &c.*—IV. 13.

1 WHERE is now the feeble reed
Shaken by a damsel's breath ?
Man he can no longer dread,
Pain, imprisonment, and death ;
Fill'd with virtue from his Lord,
With the Spirit of faith and power,
Peter stands, by grace restored,
Stands a rock and shakes no more !

2 Reeds may still, if Thou ordain,
Into rocks and pillars rise :

Me, the weakest child of man,
Jesus, strengthen from the skies ;
Fill me with that Spirit of grace
Witness for a dying God,
Then I shall the truth confess,
Dare to seal it with my blood.

2427. *And perceived that they were unlearned and, &c.*—iv. 13.

1 WEAKNESS still with ignorance
And poverty combined
Triumph o'er the boasted sense
And wisdom of mankind ;
Grandeur, wealth, and power subdue,
For Jesus' self maintains our cause,
Jesus who the world o'erthrew
While bleeding on His cross.

2 Men in every age are seen
By grace Divine employ'd,
Simple, rude, unletter'd men,
And only taught of God.
Sent into the world we go,
And gather souls on every side,
Nothing else resolved to know
But Jesus crucified.

3 Let the great and wise confess
From whence this boldness flows,
Jesus' meanest witnesses
We cannot dread our foes ;
Men who have with Jesus been,
And at His mouth received the word,
Conquerors of the world and sin
We only fear the Lord.

2428. *They could say nothing against it.*—iv. 14.

1 THE greatest miracles of grace
Can only silence and confound,
Not change the persecuting race,
Unless the Lord their conscience wound,
His efficacious love exert
And break the unbeliever's heart.

2 The dire effects of envious pride
Even now our blind opposers show :
The proofs stand forth on every side,
The sinners heal'd they see and know,
And can no longer, Lord, gainsay,
Yet still refuse the truth to' obey.

2429. *They conferred among themselves.*—iv. 15.

1 To' elude His wonders and suppress,
To' o'erthrow His merciful design,
Who now revives His work of grace,
The world in fruitless counsel join ;
Their counsel vain shall never stand,
Or shorten an Almighty hand.

2 Jehovah sends by whom He will,
His grace in season due bestows :
Who now the chair of *Moses* fill,
Confederate with your Saviour's foes,
Ye cannot stop the growing word,
Or bind that Spirit of the Lord.

2430. *What shall we do to these men? for that, &c.*—iv. 16.

STILL at a loss, ye know not how
With these wild vagabonds to deal :
Shall priests irregulars allow,
Or stop by force the growing ill?

But, should ye crush by open force,
Ye fear to make the mischief worse.

2431. *They...commanded them not to speak at all, &c.*—iv. 18.

NOT speak at all in Jesus' name?
For this alone we live,
The Friend of sinners to proclaim,
Who would the worst forgive:
From house to house we still must teach
His love whate'er betide,
In streets, highways, and deserts preach
Jehovah crucified.

2432. *Whether it be right in the sight of God to, &c.*—iv. 19.

1 GOD bids, To all My name confess,
And make My gospel known;
Man orders us to hold our peace,
And publish it to none:
But saved from earthly hopes and fears
Whate'er our elders say
We speak as Jesus' messengers,
And God, not man obey.

2 Yourselves must judge it meet and right
That we the thing should do
Well-pleasing in our Master's sight,
And God prefer to you:
Wherefore we exercise His will
As His first servants did,
And thus our ministry fulfil
Though all the world forbid.

2433. *We cannot but speak the things which we, &c.*—iv. 20.

1 UNAWED by man's authority,
Unable to forbear,

What we have seen and heard of Thee,
Our God, we must declare :
Who have Thy great salvation seen,
And heard the Lord from heaven,
We tell the sinful sons of men
They all may live forgiven.

2 The bleeding Lamb before our eyes
Set forth we have beheld,
And heard His dead-reviving cries,
And felt our pardon seal'd ;
We speak as Jesus' witnesses,
His power on others shown,
And testify the works of grace
He hath for thousands done.

3 We speak because we have believed,
So freely justified
Forgiveness through His blood received,
His precious blood applied:
The balmy virtue of His death
We must through life proclaim,
And publish with our latest breath
The all-redeeming Lamb !

2434. *They let them go, finding nothing how they, &c.*—iv. 21.

1 THEIR hate they can no further show,
Constrain'd to let the preachers go,
Though thirsting for their blood :
What power obstructs the fierce career
Of men, who God disdain to fear?
They fear the multitude.

2 Elders, and priests, and rulers rage,
Against the Lord their powers engage ;
His work the people own,

His truth and ministers embrace,
And glorify the God of grace
For all which He hath done.

3 The people praise a pardoning God,
His miracles of healing show'd
On young and old confess;
They see His hand with joyful eyes,
And heal'd themselves through Jesus rise
A cloud of witnesses!

2435. *They...reported all that the chief priests, &c.*—iv. 23.

THE evils which the church befall,
Its dangers and escapes to all
The faithful we make known,
That wrestling all in mighty prayer
They may the common burden bear,
And bring the Spirit down.

2436. *They lifted up their voice to God with one, &c.*—iv. 24-28.

1 LORD of hosts, our God and Lord,
To Thee we lift our voice,
Praise Thy name with one accord,
And in Thy strength rejoice:
Heaven is Thine, and earth, and sea,
The work of Thine Almighty hand,
Every creature made by Thee
Must bow to Thy command.

2 Thy prophetic word we find
Fulfill'd before our eyes,
Heathens still with *Jews* are join'd,
And kings and rulers rise;

Thee and Christ Thy Son to' oppose.
The lords of earth conspire again,
Rage the world of Jesus' foes,
But all their rage is vain.

3 Lo with furious malice wild
They rush impetuous on,
Leagued against Thy holy Child,
Thy dear anointed Son!
Successors to those of old,
Who when they nail'd Him to the tree.
Verified the thing foretold,
And answer'd Thy decree.

2437. *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings, &c.*—iv. 29, 30.

1 LORD the cause belongs to Thee
When truth's opposers rise,
Thou who dost their evil see
Disperse it with Thine eyes!
They and we are in Thine hand
Who sittest on Thy righteous throne,
Let Thine awful counsel stand,
Thy sovereign will be done.

2 Now behold their threatenings, Lord,
Who Thee and Thine withstand.
Arm the preachers of Thy word
By stretching forth Thy hand;
Now exert Thy power to heal,
Thy hated ministers inspire,
Warm their hearts with heavenly zeal,
And touch their lips with fire.

3 Through the name and sprinkled blood
Of Thy unspotted Child,

Miracles of grace be show'd
On sinners reconciled;
Dying sinners to relieve
To certify their sins forgiven,
Jesus' purchased Spirit give,
And send the sign from heaven.

2438. *And when they had prayed, the place was, &c.*—iv. 31.

1 THOU who once didst shake the place
Where praying saints were met,
Spirit of faith and holiness
The miracle repeat;
Shake our souls, and stir them up
To seize the crown prepared above,
Fill with confidence of hope,
And purity of love.

2 Power to every messenger
And ready utterance give,
That we boldly may declare
The Name through which we live,
Preach the reconciling Word
Who did His peace to all bequeath,
Followers of our lamb-like Lord,
And faithful unto death.

2439. *The multitude of them that believed were of, &c.*—iv. 32.

1 HAPPY the multitude
(But far above our sphere)
Redeem'd by Jesus' blood
From all we covet here!
To Him, and to each other join'd
They all were of one heart and mind.

2 His blood the cement was
Who died on *Calvary*,

And fasten'd to His cross
They could not disagree;
One soul did all the members move.
The soul of harmony and love.

3 Jesus Thy church inspire
With apostolic love,
Infuse the one desire
To' ensure our wealth above,
Freely with earthly goods to part,
And joyfully sell all in heart.

4 With Thy pure Spirit fill'd,
And loving Thee alone,
We shall our substance yield,
Call nothing here our own,
Whate'er we have or are submit,
And lie as beggars at Thy feet.

2440. *Barnabas...(The son of consolation,) a Levite, &c.* — iv. 36.

1 See here an apostolic priest,
Commission'd from the sky,
Who dares of all himself divest,
The needy to supply!
A primitive example rare
Of gospel poverty,
To feed the flock his only care,
And like his Lord to be.

2 Jesus to us apostles raise,
Like-minded pastors give
Who freely may dispense Thy grace
As freely they receive;
Who disengaged from all below
May earthly things despise,
And every creature good forego
For treasure in the skies.

CHAPTER V.

2441. *Ananias, with Sapphira...sold a possession, &c.*—v. 1, 2.

How soon alas the selfish sin
The love of property comes in,
While man from God withholds a part,
Yet seems to give Him all his heart!
Deceived the' Omniscient cannot be
By avarice and hypocrisy,
Who lurking under love's disguise
Present detested sacrifice.

2442. *Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the, &c.*—v. 3.

In works of charity who hide
Their fraud and sacrilegious pride,
As not infallible they deem
The Holy Ghost, the God supreme:
Their hearts they think He cannot know
Conceal'd beneath an outward show,
And thus the Spirit of truth deny,
And thus blaspheme the Lord Most-High.

2443. *Whiles it remained, was it not thine own?*—v. 4.

God who His creatures' love requires,
Our only happiness desires,
He claims the whole and not a part,
Not half our goods but all our heart.
My heart, O God, is all Thy due,
Is always naked to Thy view;
And if I love not Thee alone,
I make the' impostor's doom my own.

2444. *Ananias hearing these words fell down, and, &c.* v. 5.

Tremble thou hypocrite profane,
Who dost mankind deceive,

Though God His righteous wrath refrain
And let thy body live!
Even while it sins thy soul expires,
And soon sent down to hell
In unextinguishable fires
The second death shall feel.

2445. *How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt, &c.*—v. 9.

1 MARRIAGE was by God design'd
That every happy two
Might in closest union join'd
Their heavenly Lord pursue;
Holier through each other prove,
And hand in hand with joy go on
To the highest feast of love,
The Lamb's eternal throne.

2 How do you, alas, profane
The solemn mystery,
You who worse than meet in vain,
And but in sin agree!
Join'd in every wicked deed
Ye thus your mutual ruin seal,
Hand in hand go on, and lead
Each other down to hell.

2446. *Then fell she down.. at his feet, and yielded up, &c.*—v. 10.

1 HER spirit she gave up!
And thus the righteous Lord,
An evil in its birth to stop,
Makes bare His glittering sword!
Beginning at His house,
He never spares His own,
That all may know our God allows
Impunity to none.

2 Not rigid wrath extreme,
But wisdom mix'd with love,
Severely kind, a rotten limb
Doth from the rest remove;
Cut off one member is
To keep the body whole:
And well for her if final peace
Surprised her parting soul.

2447. *And great fear came upon all the church.*—v. 11.

THOU, Lord, art greatly to be fear'd,
And dost our homage claim;
Thou wilt be by Thy saints revered,
By all that know Thy name:
Thy judgments keep the church in awe,
Even those who sweetly prove
Wrote on their hearts the perfect law
Of liberty and love.

2448.

1 HERE a true specimen we see
A church in its integrity
Call'd by the gospel-word,
Distinguish'd from the sinful race,
By faith and the baptismal grace,
Grafted into its Lord.

2 Inspired and actuated by love
To set their hearts on things above
By Jesus' Spirit led,
In fellowship of every kind
Compacted close, and disciplined
By hypocrites struck dead.

2449. *By the hands of the apostles were many signs, &c.*—v. 12.

GOD, to make His mercy known,
His wondrous power declares,

Shows the gracious work His own,
His own the messengers ;
Answering, Lord, Thy great design.
Our faith's integrity we prove,
By the bond of peace Divine
And all-uniting love.

2450. *And of the rest durst no man join himself, &c.*—v. 13.
PIETY respect inspires,
But rarely in the great :
Oft the multitude admires
And longs to imitate :
Ready for converting grace
They thus evince the work begun,
Who in others love and praise
The power of faith unknown.

2451. *And believers were the more added.*—v. 14.
1 LORD, the sacred terror send
Into the worldly crowd,
Thus Thine heritage defend
From all who know not God:
Put the infidels in fear,
And let them at a distance stand,
Till by humble faith brought near
They join the happy band.

2 Guarded by Thy loving care,
And compassèd about,
While we watch with ceaseless prayer
To keep the' unworthy out ;
Men of upright hearts sincere
Thou wilt increase and multiply,
Added to Thy people here
With us to live and die.

2452. *That...the shadow of Peter passing by might.*—v. 15.

1 WHILE a weak worm pass'd by
Could *Peter's* shadow heal?
The Lord omnipotent was nigh,
And did Himself reveal;
He made their bodies whole,
Substance of God supreme:
And still for each distemper'd soul
The power proceeds from Him.

2 O that Thy Spirit of love
Might now o'ershadow me,
My plague of unbelief remove,
My nature's malady!
O might my last distress
Attract Thy pitying eye!
Heal my incurable disease,
Or see Thy patient die.

2453. *There came also a multitude* out *of the cities, &c.*—v. 16.

1 WHEN the gospel of grace
Is proclaim'd in our days
From all places around
What a multitude flock to the life-giving sound!
To the church they repair;
For Jesus is there
In His virtue to heal,
And ready His love in their hearts to reveal.

2 The desperate crowd
With infirmities bow'd,
Sick of every sin,
And vex'd with a legion of spirits unclean,

The Physician attend,
And His goodness commend,
Who His patients relieves
And a pardon to all the incurable gives.

2454. *Then the high priest rose up, and all they that, &c.*—v. 17.

1 CAN priests with *Sadducees* agree,
With men who mock at heaven and hell?
Common their rage and enmity
Their bitter persecuting zeal
'Gainst all the ministers of grace
When Jesus gives His word success.

2 Who love to reign install'd on high,
For honour, power, and riches care,
And who an after state deny,
That growing truth they cannot bear
Which pomp pontifical destroys,
And fills us here with heavenly joys.

2455. *And laid...hands on the apostles, and put them, &c.*—v. 18.

BONDS for ornaments we take
When our faith by bonds is tried:
Jesus bore them for our sake,
Bore, ennobled, sanctified:
Suffering for His cause alone
Confessors of Jesus' name
Sing we into dangers thrown,
Glory in our Master's shame.

2456. *But the angel of the Lord...opened the prison, &c.*—v. 19

MEN should patiently endure,
Leave their God to act for them:
Bars and chains cannot secure
Whom He willeth to redeem:

Christ, whose might invincible
  Burst the prison of the grave,
Christ who shuts and opens hell
  Can He not from dungeons save?

2457. *Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people, &c.*—v. 20.

1 When our benign almighty Lord
  Will use the ministry of man,
He makes a way to preach the word,
  And earthly powers oppose in vain;
His works and man's to Him are known,
And all that God appoints is done.

2 Our foes may in the temple seize,
  And load us with a felon's chain,
Jesus His prisoners can release
  And send us to His house again:
And servants of His sovereign will
We must our ministry fulfil.

3 We yet shall to the people speak
  The words that life eternal give,
Point out the way to all who seek
  With Christ in paradise to live,
The words which spoke by Him we know
Are spirit, life, and heaven below.

2458. *They doubted...whereunto this would grow.*—v. 24.

Know all who doubt or fear to know
  How far this error will proceed,
Thy word shall still prevail and grow,
  Through ours and every nation spread,
Till every soul the Saviour knows,
And righteousness the earth o'erflows.

2459. *Behold, the men...are...teaching the people.*—v. 25.

HOWE'ER the angry world oppose
We must the work of God pursue,
Where persecution's storm arose
Publish the word with vigour new,
Assured while we His will perform
Our Lord is Master of the storm.

2460. They *brought them without violence.*—v. 26.

THE world sometimes their rage suppress,
And lay their violence quite aside,
But shall we look for lasting peace,
Or in their gentleness confide?
When most humane our foes appear
They spare us, not from love, but fear.

2461.

1 BEHOLD the' apostles of the Lamb
They follow meek wherever led,
Who preach'd the truth in Jesus' name
They come to suffer as their Head.
With power Divine endued and fill'd
To man's authority they yield.

2 They will not enemies withstand,
Or use their power themselves to save,
Their lives are in the Saviour's hand
In whom they full affiance have,
And know, their Lord will keep His own,
Till all His will and work be done.

2462. *When they had brought them,...they set* them, *&c.*—v. 27.

1 HUMBLE and wise, they offer not
Before the judgment seat to' appear,
But yield, and let themselves be brought
Superior both to wrath and fear,

Fill'd with the Spirit of God supreme.
Who first o'ercame the world for them.

2 Fill'd with the same almighty grace
Our foes we neither seek nor shun,
Let them at their tribunals place
We there our Lord and Pattern own,
And glory His reproach to share
And stand with Jesus at the bar.

2463. *Did not we straitly command you that ye, &c.*—v. 28.

1 We must speak on, forbid by all,
And preach salvation in this name,
By Jesus' own command we call
On every soul, Behold the Lamb!
We teach according to His will
The faithful acceptable word,
And long the universe to fill
With the pure doctrine of our Lord.

2 By countless acts of wickedness
The Prince of life ye seized and slew,
The Man from heaven who bought our peace
We surely charge His death on you:
Ye murderers of incarnate God
Ye speak the thing by us design'd,
We mean to bring His sprinkled blood
On you, ourselves, and all mankind.

2464. *We ought to obey God rather than men.*—v. 29.

1 When man presumes a law to' enjoin
Which contradicts the law Divine,
Shall we a moment doubting stay
Which to reject and which obey?
Or bold before the world avow
To God's, not man's commands we bow.

2 Zeal to prefer our Maker's will
With modest confidence shall fill,
Shall own, in all our gestures seen,
That we who have with Jesus been
His will our only rule receive,
Or die for Him by whom we live.

2465. *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom, &c.*—v. 30.

1 SENT to the great, and rich, and wise,
(God and His law before our eyes,)
We speak their conscience to convince,
Publicly tax their public sins,
Without insulting we reprove,
In just severity of love.

2 Preachers are call'd, above the rest.
To stand for innocence oppress'd,
Themselves by hellish hate pursued
To vindicate their suffering God;
And set at man's unrighteous bar,
To' arraign their wicked judges there.

2466. *Him hath God exalted with His right hand, &c.*—v. 31.

1 BY His own Almighty Spirit
God hath glorified His Son;
Pardon'd now through Jesus' merit
Penitents approach His throne;
Christ bestows the true contrition,
Makes us feel our soul-disease,
Then appearing our Physician
Heals and bids us go in peace.

2 In Thy state of exaltation
Answer Lord its end on me,
Thou the God of my salvation
Thou my Prince and Ruler be;

Let me first, the true repentance
Self-condemn'd from Thee receive,
Then reverse the fearful sentence,
Bid Thy pardon'd rebel live.

2467.

1 O COULD I mourn for God,
Obtain the grace I claim,
Purchased by my Redeemer's blood,
And publish'd in His name,
Promised to all that pray,
With patience persevere,
And offer'd in His gracious day,
To every sinner here.

2 Saviour of men, and Prince,
Thy mercy's power exert:
By a kind pitying look convince,
And break my flinty heart;
Wound by Thy Spirit's sword,
One who so long has tried,
So often trampled on my Lord,
So often crucified.

3 O let Thy love constrain
The murderer to submit!
And bring me down with shame, and pain,
And sorrow at Thy feet.
To wash them with my tears,
For mercy, mercy pray,
And when Thy smiling face appears
To weep my life away.

2468. *We are His witnesses of these things: and, &c.*—v. 32.

1 WE witness for our Prince
And Saviour in the sky,

Who doth the soul of sin convince
And freely justify :
At God's right hand He dwells
The double grace to' impart ;
He breaks, and then forgiveness seals
On the poor broken heart.

2 His Spirit too declares
Our Lord enthroned for this,
Working with all the ministers
Of evangelic peace :
Jesus He testifies
Our true eternal God,
Condemns the world, and then applies
That all-atoning blood.

3 The Father of our Lord
The Holy Ghost hath given,
To sinners saved who keep His word,
The' anointed heirs of heaven :
Who faithfully obey
Their Saviour from above,
And wait His coming in that day
To crown them with His love.

2469. *When they heard* that, *they were cut* to the, *&c.* — v. 33

1 THEY felt the sharp two-edged sword,
Provoked and harden'd by the word
Which thousands saved and heal'd,
The offers of salvation scorn'd,
With fiery indignation burn'd,
With rage and madness fill'd.

2 Servants of Christ, the same expect,
Their offer'd Lord who now reject
When ready to forgive ;

You they will spitefully entreat,
Imprison, judge, and vex, and beat,
And count not fit to live.

2470. *For before these days rose up Theudas, &c.*—v. 36, 37.

1 HUMAN events we should attend,
Their rise, their progress, and their end,
Review, compare, reflect;
The ways of Providence to learn,
The work of God from man's discern,
Religion from a sect.

2 God's work to ruin or prevent
Satan in every age has sent
His messengers before;
Yet when the true apostles rose,
Nor earth nor hell their mouth could close,
Or shut the gospel door.

2471. *I say unto you, Refrain from these men, &c.*—v. 38, 39.

1 YE sages of the world, be wise,
Take the judicious scribe's advice,
And let these men alone:
Their work if plann'd by human thought
Shall soon decay and come to nought,
And prove itself their own.

2 But if this counsel is Divine,
In vain the powers of earth combine
To hinder or o'erthrow:
Your utmost skill and strength employ,
Man never can the work destroy,
Which God revives below.

3 Wisely ye may consult, contrive,
Earth's potsherds with your Maker strive,
Your God withstand, defy;

But O 'tis quite impossible
Against the' Almighty to prevail,
Or conquer the Most-High!

2472. *They commanded that they should not speak, &c.*—v. 40.

Of whom should His apostles speak
But Him who fills their hearts and mind,
Who sends them forth, the lost to seek,
To call and gather all mankind?
And all entrusted with His word
Forbid by men will God obey;
We must proclaim our dying Lord,
Though pain and death obstruct the way.

2473. *They...let them go.*—v. 40.

Reluctantly they let them go,
The men devoted unto death,
God over all appoints it so,
And plucks the prey out of their teeth;
Like them your mission to fulfil,
Servants of the Most-High go on,
Nor fear who can the body kill—
But not till all your work is done.

2474. *And daily in the temple, and in every house, &c.*—v. 42.

1 Made out of weakness strong,
By sufferings fortified,
We preach Him all day long
Who once for sinners died;
'Tis double joy to make Him known,
And suffer for His sake alone.

2 We cannot be withheld
By stripes or menaces,

But by His love compell'd
Our Saviour-Prince confess,
In churches, houses, fields proclaim
Pardon for all in Jesu's name.

CHAPTER VI.

2475. *And in those days...there arose a murmuring.*—vi. 1.

1 SEE the first fatal step to part
Men of one soul, and of one heart!
Undue respect of man,
Pride imperceptibly steals in,
Begets the discontented sin,
And mars the perfect plan.

2 Where are humility and peace?
The root of envious bitterness
Pride, only pride could prove:
Envy unkind suspicion wakes,
Suspicion all the murmurs makes
And poisons social love.

3 Who can, O God, Thy counsels tell!
Thy judgments are unsearchable!
The pure and perfect way,
Religion undefiled and true
Scarcely appear'd to mortal view,
And vanish'd in a day!

2476. *It is not reason that we should leave the word, &c.*—vi. 2.

1 EXCUSED from earthly cares,
Detach'd from all below,

Jesus' authentic ministers
Should only Jesus know :
Their privilege to deal
Supersubstantial bread,
And with the meat invisible
Poor hungry souls to feed.

2 Ye apostolic men
Your one great business own,
The low concerns of earth disdain,
And live for Christ alone :
By ministering His word
His people multiply,
And with the Spirit of your Lord
The growing church supply.

3 Your call is to dispense
His blessings from above,
The peace of cancell'd guilt, the sense
Of holy joy and love :
Make the full proof appear
On multitudes forgiven,
Go on to save the souls that hear,
Go on to people heaven.

2477. *We will give ourselves continually to prayer, &c.*—vi. 4

1 We live to make the Saviour known,
And bring His gifts and blessings down
On those who Christ obey ;
Joyful in this to persevere,
For all the pastor's business here
Is but to preach and pray.

2 Still let us earthly matters leave,
Ourselves to God entirely give
And to His church below ;

Live out a life of prayer and love,
And to our great reward above
In Jesus' footsteps go.

2478. *And the saying pleased the whole multitude.*—vi. 5.

When superior pastors show
Their humble zeal and love,
In the' apostles' footsteps go,
The church their deed approve:
When of worldly honours proud
Their state and grandeur they maintain,
Irksome both to man and God
The lordly tyrants reign.

2479. *And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith, &c.*—vi. 5.

Happy were the church, could all
Her ministers agree;
Evidence their lawful call
To their high ministry,
Fulness of the Spirit obtain,
And *Stephen's* faithful zeal express,
Offering up their lives, to gain
The crown of righteousness.

2480. *And the word of God increased.*—vi. 7.

When the stumbling-block is gone
Envy and contentious pride,
Then the word doth swiftly run,
Then the church is multiplied;
When the Christians all agree
Priests themselves in troops submit,
Those that nail'd Him to the tree
Fall and kiss His bleeding feet.

2481. *Stephen, full of faith and power, did great, &c.*—vi. 8.

1 One single minister renew'd
And fill'd with faith's resistless might,
Does wonders in the cause of God,
Puts Satan's synagogue to flight,
In all his loving toils succeeds,
And Christ among the people spreads.

2 Such ministry, O Christ ordain,
And fill with power invincible
Thy truth and goodness to maintain
Through *Stephen's* faith, and fervent zeal
Mighty the alien host to' o'erthrow,
And all Thy gracious wonders show.

2482. *Then there arose certain...disputing with, &c.*—vi. 9.

1 Who Jesus' work resolves to do
Will always contradiction meet,
In every age disputers new
Satan's strong arguments repeat;
But all the hellish sophists yield
To one with heavenly wisdom fill'd.

2 Champion of God, in Jesus' might,
In Jesus' Spirit he goes on,
Single against a world to fight;
He treads their baffled reasons down,
And all the' opposers of his Lord
Quells with the hammer of the word.

2483. *Then they suborned men,...which said, We, &c.*—vi. 11, 12

1 Silenced, but not convinced, the foes
Of Christ a surer method take,
Violence and fraud to truth oppose,
Slander and lies their refuge make,

And rouse the sons of wickedness,
The furious crowd, their prey to seize.

2 Whose words they can no more withstand
They now their persons apprehend,
Attended with a ruffian band
Like ravenous wolves the sheep they rend
As guilty criminals entreat,
And drag them to the judgment-seat.

2484. *And all that sat in the council, looking, &c.*—vi. 15.

1 See ye misbelieving race,
Read it on your prisoner's face;
By the shining token know
Stephen is not *Moses'* foe:
God Himself doth witness bear,
More than innocent declare,
With celestial grace endued,
Marks him for the friend of God.

2 Signs alas! cannot suffice,
Blind your hearts, if not your eyes,
All the human angel see,
All that angel's death decree!
Thus, my God, if Thou bestow
Angels on Thy church below,
Still the world refuse to own,
Still the messengers they stone.

CHAPTER VII.

2485. *Get thee out of thy country, and from thy, &c.*—vii. 3.

1 In every time and place
Who serve the Lord Most-High,
Are call'd His sovereign will to' embrace,
And still their own deny;
To follow His command,
On earth as pilgrims rove,
And seek an undiscover'd land,
And house and friends above.

2 Father, the narrow path
To that far country show;
And in the steps of *Abraham's* faith
Enable me to go;
A cheerful sojourner
Where'er Thou bidd'st me roam,
Till, guided by Thy Spirit here,
I reach my heavenly home.

2486. *From thence, when his father was dead, &c.*—vii. 4.

Who Jesu's word esteem
And own Him for our Head,
The world to us and we to them
Are crucified, and dead:
Renouncing our first birth
With the desires of men,
We pass from all the things of earth:
And then our *Canaan* gain.

2487. *He gave him none inheritance in it.*—vii. 5.

This earth on which awhile we stay,
We cannot call our own,

So suddenly we pass away
  Into that land unknown:
That land unknown, our promised place,
  Not yet to us is given;
But heirs through hope, we shall possess
  The' inheritance of heaven.

2488. *Yet He promised that He would give it to him, &c.*—vii. 5.

If God to man a promise make
  Our hearts may well be still,
His truth and justice are at stake
  And must His word fulfil;
With humble faith's simplicity
  The means to God we leave,
Deceived Himself He cannot be,
  He cannot us deceive.

2489. *God spake... That his seed should sojourn in a, &c.*—vii. 6.

1 In sin I long have dwelt
    The wretched slave of man,
  My guilty burden felt,
    With Satan's galling chain;
  By cruel taskmasters oppress'd,
  Far from the land of gospel rest.

2 Estranged alas from God,
    The God of pardoning grace,
  I tremble at the rod,
    Yet serve the' *Egyptian* race;
  Repeat my melancholy moan,
  And in the iron furnace groan.

2490. *The nation to whom they shall be in bondage, &c.*—vii. 7.

1 Jesus at last arise
    To' avenge me of my foe,

Thy justice exercise,
Thy righteous anger show ;
These sins that hold my soul in thrall,
These tyrant sins, destroy them all.

2 With patience I attend
For that redeeming word,
Which makes my troubles end,
Which bids me serve my Lord,
And brings me forth with joy and peace
Into the land of righteousness.

2491 *So* Abraham *begat Isaac,...and Isaac* begat, *&c.*—vii. 8.

In *Abraham* our God we find
Father of Christ and all mankind,
Whose love deliver'd up His Son
The Victim dear in *Isaac* shown ;
Jacob presents in figure true
The Third proceeding from the Two,
Jacob whose wrestling spirit of grace
Gives birth to all the chosen race.*

2492. *And the patriarchs, moved with envy, &c.*—vii. 9, 10.

1 Jesus the Father's darling Son
In *Joseph* we behold,
The Man with God for ever one
By envious brethren sold ;
To *Gentile* hands deliver'd o'er
Whom God did soon release,
Whom every knee shall bow before,
And every tongue confess.

* These fanciful analogies have not been traced, but are not improbably among those borrowed from Dr. Gell ; see Vol. IX., p. vii.

2 Redeem'd from all His sufferings here
All power to Him is given,
Advanced in His own right to' appear
Before the King of heaven;
The Spirit He hath received above
Of wisdom and of grace,
The fulness of His Father's love
For *Jacob's* favour'd race.

3 The church His house and kingdom stands,
And subjected to Him,
Acknowledges the mild commands
Of its great Head supreme;
Not of a servant but a Son
Jesus the power maintains,
With full authority alone
O'er earth and heaven He reigns.

2493. *Now there came a dearth over all the land.*—vii. 11.

1 WHERE the true *Joseph* is not seen
To show His providential care,
Pining distress and famine lean
And want of every good is there;
For Jesus is the real Bread
Who gives Himself our souls to feed.

2 Saviour, Thou know'st the things of earth
For hungry souls cannot suffice:
Remove this universal dearth,
Thyself descending from the skies;
Thyself revive our famish'd race,
And fill the world with pardoning grace.

2494. *When Jacob heard that there was corn in, &c.*—vii. 12.

1 THE grain of wheat, the quicken'd grain,
Which life and strength to man imparts,

Which doth immortal souls sustain
And cheers and glads our drooping hearts,
We find in Jesus Christ alone,
To all that seek by faith made known.

2 We hear the word which faith conveys,
That corn is still in *Egypt* found,
That mercy rich and gospel grace
Doth for the worst of men abound,
And sinners taste their Lord reveal'd,
And *Heathens* with His love are fill'd.

2495. They *were...laid in the sepulchre that, &c.*—vii. 16.

1 In *Abraham's* sepulchre they rest,
Who once did in his footsteps go,
Pilgrims, like him, themselves confess'd,
Strangers and sojourners below
By faith embraced the promise given,
And sought their settlement in heaven.

2 Who faith's sincere obedience show'd
Their *Isaacs* here by offering up
Are gather'd to the friends of God;
Their bodies too repose in hope,
Their souls in *Abraham's* bosom lie
Safe with their Father in the sky.

2496. *Another king arose, which knew not Joseph.*—vii. 18.

Who is so great a God as ours!
He can His church sustain,
Without the help of earthly powers
The countenance of man:
Let worldly potentates disown,
We rest beneath His wings,

And know we are to Jesus known,
The sovereign King of kings.

2497. *The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, &c.*—vii. 19.

DECEIT and force are still employ'd
Against the church and truth of God
And its defenders here:
The Lord permits it so to be,
That in our last extremity
He may Himself appear.

2498. *In which time Moses was born, and was, &c.*—vii. 20.

1 THE type in *Moses* we confess
Born in a time of great distress,
And born divinely fair:
But who of all the sons of men,
When once the Antitype is seen
With Jesus can compare?

2 Born to fulfil the promises,
His captive people to release,
In a strange land He lives;
And persecuted from His birth,
The lot of all His saints on earth
With meekest love receives.

2499. *When he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter, &c.*—vii. 21.

SHALL I in desperate straits despair,
Or doubt His providential care?
Forsook, I still retain my hope
The Lord Himself will take me up,
Adopt, and nourish for His son,
And raise the outcast to a throne.

2500. *Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the, &c.*—vii. 22.

1 LEARNING secular, profane,
To use if God intends,
Pestilent no more, or vain,
It serves the noblest ends;
Wrests the weapons from their hands
Who learnedly the truth oppose,
Puts to flight the' *Egyptian* bands,
And quells the church's foes.

2 Lord, the figure we look through,
The truth substantial see,
All the stores of wisdom true
Are treasured up in Thee:
Powerful all Thy doctrines are,
Thy Spirit speaks in every word,
All Thy works the hand declare
Of an Almighty Lord.

2501. *It came into his heart to visit his brethren, &c.*—vii. 23.

1 How should *Israel's* sons commend
His kind humility,
Who so greatly did descend
His brethren poor to see?
O with what stupendous love
Did Christ His heavenly bliss forsake,
Leave His Father's throne above,
Our nature to partake!

2 Only love Thy heart inclined,
In majesty supreme,
Brought Thee, Saviour of mankind,
Thine *Israel* to redeem;

Gall'd by sin and Satan's chain
For us once more the heavens bow,
Jesus, visit us again,
And save Thy people now.

2502. *And seeing one* of them *suffer wrong, he, &c.*—vii. 24.

LORD appear, the wrongs redress
Unto Thy people done,
Let the world no more oppress
Whom Thou hast call'd Thine own ;
Set Thine injured brethren free
From Satan's dire despotic sway,
Now destroy his tyranny,
And sin for ever slay.

2503. *He supposed his brethren would have, &c.*—vii. 25.

JESUS coming to Thine own
Thine own receive Thee not,
All the wonders Thou hast done
Are slighted and forgot :
O that I may understand
Thy gracious mind, and plainly see
That Divine Almighty Hand
Stretch'd out to rescue me !

2504. *He shewed himself unto them as they strove, &c.*—vii. 26.

WAS it not Thy kind design
To make our discord cease,
God with man to' unite, and join
Thy church in lasting peace ?
Answering Thy benign intent
Come in Thy Spirit from above ;
All Thy people, Lord, cement
In pure fraternal love.

2505. *He that did his neighbour wrong thrust him, &c.*—vii. 27.

1 How gross our nature's blindness is
Who spurn what Christ would fain bestow!
Diseased, we cherish the disease,
Nor will our kind Physician know;
The subject will not own his Prince,
The criminal his Judge implore,
The slave Who frees him from his sins,
Or I a pardoning God adore.

2 But ah suffice the season pass'd,
I now to my dread Lord submit;
My Judge I recognise at last,
And groan for mercy at Thy feet:
Placed by Thy Father's arm Thou art,
A Prince, a Saviour, on the throne,
To certify my trembling heart
My Judge and Advocate are One.

2506. *Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian, &c.*—vii. 28.

1 How different Christ from *Moses* here!
He came not to destroy but save,
Not death but life to minister
And ransom sinners from the grave;
He came, our sins, not us to kill,
Our souls and God again to join,
With life and larger life to fill,
With life, and sanctity Divine.

2 But slighted and repulsed by men
The people whom He loved so well,
He bids His servants count the gain
Of all their ministerial zeal:
Lord, we expect the same return
If sharers of Thy charity,

Objects of universal scorn,
And hated by the world, like Thee.

2507. *There appeared to him in the wilderness, &c.*—vii. 30.

In the lonely desert place
God doth oft to man appear,
Shows the counsels of His grace
To His chosen minister:
Christ, that Angel of the Lord,
Still instructs us from the sky,
Then we preach the gospel-word,
Joyful news of Jesus nigh.

2508. *When Moses saw* it, *he wondered at the sight.*—vii. 31.

I the miracle admire,
Daily I behold the same
Unconsumed amidst the fire,
Tempted, yet preserved, I am!
In the flaming furnace whole
I the sevenfold test endure,
Till the Lord bring forth my soul,
Pure, in Him entirely pure.

2509. *Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.*—vii. 32.

Moses when *Abraham's* God is near,
Will not presume his eyes to raise,
With reverence struck at *Isaac's* Fear
On *Jacob's* Lord he dares not gaze:
But all who know the sprinkled blood
With humble confidence draw nigh,
With awe approach a pardoning God,
Yet still they Abba Father cry.

2510. *Put off thy shoes from thy feet.*—vii. 33.

Would we attend the voice Divine,
Jehovah's gracious counsels know,

We must the things of earth resign,
Put off the thoughts of all below
With deep humility draw near,
Call'd by His Spirit from above
The great redeeming God to hear,
Who turns our terror into love.

2511. *I have seen, I have seen, the affliction of My, &c.*—vii. 34.

1 ALMIGHTY Redeemer of men,
All pity and love as Thou art,
Thou hear'st the expressions of pain,
The groans of a sorrowful heart:
The sorrow Thou seest in my breast,
The daily affliction I feel
By guilt above measure oppress'd,
And bruised by the tyrant of hell.

2 Enslaved to the world I have been,
And struggle in vain to get free;
Detain'd in the furnace of sin,
No end of oppression I see:
My burden of trouble and grief
Thou know'st, I no longer can bear;
Come down to a sinner's relief,
And ransom a soul from despair.

3 Thy Spirit of faith from above
He only has power to release,
The yoke and the scourge to remove,
And bring me the freedom and peace;
Come Lord, to a prisoner of hope,
Appear as a crucified God,
And out of my sins I go up,
And pardon I have in Thy blood.

2512. *He brought them out, after that he had, &c.*—vii. 36.

1 WHAT tongue can express
The great actions of grace,
The miracles done
By the Lover of souls, in behalf of His own;
His exploits to set free
Such a sinner as me,
To redeem a poor slave,
From the bondage of sin and of Satan to save!

2 By His wonderful name
Out of *Egypt* I came,
Through the sea of His blood
He hath brought me a justified sinner to God:
In the wilderness led,
By miracles fed,
And upheld by His hand,
I at last shall arrive at the heavenly land.

2513. *Him shall ye hear.*—vii. 37.

To each sinful inclination
Lord, no longer we give ear,
Thee, the God of our salvation,
Only Thee, we now would hear;
Prophet, to Thy brethren given
We to Thy commands submit:
Speak; and make it all our heaven
Still to listen at Thy feet.

2514. *This is he, that was in the church in the, &c.*—vii. 38.

MOSES with the church abode
Travelling o'er the wilderness,
Heard the awful Angel-God
Uttering laws for all our race;

Christ the Father's Messenger,
God Himself with us abides,
Leads us by His Spirit here,
To the heavenly *Canaan* guides.

2515. Moses...*received the lively oracles to give unto us.*—vii. 38.

BUT the Antitype much more
Did the living words receive,
Words of energy and power,
Words which cause the dead to live:
Jesus, God's supreme Delight,
Thou hast heard His words above;
On the fleshly tables write,
Teach our hearts the law of love.

2516. *To whom our fathers would not obey, but, &c.*—vii. 39.

1 HORRIBLE apostasy!
Sinful souls how can it be?
Sinful souls so dearly bought,
From the house of bondage brought;
Wash'd in your Redeemer's blood,
Tasting once that God is good,
Can ye your good God forsake,
Can ye to the world draw back?

2 Yes; I own the crime abhorr'd,
Weary of my gracious Lord,
Him I have repulsed and scorn'd,
Back again to *Egypt* turn'd;
That I may revolt no more
Jesus come with all Thy power,
All Thy purity impart,
Fix by reigning in my heart.

2517. *They...offered sacrifice unto the idol, &c.*—vii. 41.

WHO to some brutish lust submit
And seek therein your happiness,

The ancient sin ye still repeat,
The creature for your God confess;
Prostrate before the idol fall,
Vile worshippers of sordid vice,
Your goods, your health, your time, your all,
Your souls to self ye sacrifice.

2518. *Then God turned, and gave them up to, &c.*—vii. 42.

1 I HAVE other gods adored
With vile idolatry,
Oft provoked my injured Lord
To turn His eyes from me;
Yet Thou dost my soul reprieve,
Unpunish'd after my desert,
Dost not give me up, or leave
To my own evil heart.

2 Hadst Thou left me, Lord, alone,
And quite withdrawn Thy grace,
Every act I should have done
Of desperate wickedness:
But Thou hast my manners borne
That, saved from all idolatry,
All my soul to God may turn,
And worship none but Thee.

2519. *But Solomon built Him an house.*—vii. 47.

1 *DAVID* the man of war
The alien hosts o'erthrows,
Type of that mighty Conqueror
Who trod down all His foes,
Who in His mortal days,
By having all subdued
Heap'd exhaustless stores of grace
To build the house of God.

2 *David's* immortal Son
Magnificent in power,
Sublime on His celestial throne
He reigns for evermore ;
The real Prince of Peace,
The *Solomon* from on high,
He rears the house of holiness,
And bids it reach the sky.

3 Before His Father's face
Our Advocate with God
Favour He finds for us, and grace
Through His prevailing blood ;
His meritorious death,
Which now He pleads above
Doth peace to all His church bequeath
And pure confirming love.

4 Who laid the ground alone,
The temple of the Lord
He by His Spirit carries on
And by His hallowing word.
And when the Finisher
Of faith Himself reveals,
The rising church He perfects here
The house with glory fills.

2520. *The Most High dwelleth not in temples, &c.*—vii. 48.

1 Who can compass or contain
The glorious Infinite ?
Ask that heaven-descended Man
In whom He takes delight ;
Only one immortal Shrine
Jehovah's self is pleased to own

Worthy of the Sire Divine—
The body of His Son !

2 One the body mystical
Is with its heavenly Head,
Therefore God vouchsafes to dwell
In all the faithful seed;
In the hearts of men to' abide,
When throughly cleansed by Jesu's blood,
By the Spirit sanctified
And all resign'd to God.

2521. *What* is *the place of My rest?*—vii. 49.

Of bliss essentially possess'd
Out of Himself He cannot rest,
The all-sufficient God we own
His proper End Himself alone :
But whom the heavens cannot contain
Reveals Himself the End of man ;
We find Him in our hearts, and prove
The all-sufficient God is Love !

2522. *Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost.*—vii. 51.

Who act the persecutor's part
A stubborn stiff-neck'd *Jewish* race,
Uncircumcised in ears and heart
Ye still resist the Spirit of grace,
Harden your heart, and stop your ears,
When God commands you to repent,
And run upon the messengers,
And stone the Sender in the sent.

2523. *He...saw...Jesus standing on the right hand, &c.*—vii. 55.

1 Happy saint, so quickly driven
From the flesh by violent pain,

Here enjoy the sight of heaven,
Here behold the Son of Man,
Jesus waiting
To receive thy soul again !

2 Lo, He stands with arms extended,
(Risen from His dazzling throne,)
Sees His servant's warfare ended,
Sends His flaming chariot down,
Smiles triumphant,
Reaches out the palm and crown !

3 Every confessor and servant
Who of Jesus testifies,
Faithful unto death and fervent,
Shall obtain the victor's prize ;
See his Saviour
Grasp Him through the opening skies.

4 If Thou call even us to' inherit
Joys for martyr'd saints prepared,
Thou wilt fill us with Thy Spirit
Pledge of that supreme reward ;
Sinking, dying,
We shall view our heavenly Lord.

5 Thou wilt set Thyself before us,
Standing in the holiest place,
God omnipotently glorious
We shall on Thy brightness gaze,
Gaze triumphant
On Thy beatific face.

6 Jesus, to our supplication
In that final hour attend,
To the God of our salvation
While our spirits we commend ;

Then receive us,
Crown'd with bliss which ne'er shall end!

2524. *The witnesses laid down their clothes at a, &c.*—vii. 58.

1 CANST thou, O *Saul*, believe
While wet with *Stephen's* blood
Thou shalt thyself his lot receive,
A confessor of God?
Stoned for thy Saviour's sake,
Whom now thou dost blaspheme
Shalt thou at last his death partake
And yield thy soul to Him?

2 Now are ye join'd in love,
In bonds of lasting peace:
Stephen and *Saul* are friends above,
Where pain and sorrow cease;
Rank'd with the saints in light
Who death by death subdued,
Who wash'd their robes, and made them white
Through the Redeemer's blood.

525. *And they stoned Stephen, calling upon* God, *&c.*—vii. 59.

OFFERING up his soul in prayer
Stephen on his God relies
Call'd the Saviour's death to share,
Join'd to Jesu's sacrifice;
"Trusting in Thy only merit,
Thee my Lord and God I own,
O receive my ransom'd spirit
Take a sinner to Thy throne."

2526. *Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.*—vii. 60.

RIVAL meek of Jesu's passion,
Lo, the lamblike victim bleeds,

Breathes the final supplication,
For his murderers intercedes,
Loudly in His Spirit crying
Through whose only death we live,
Echoes the Redeemer dying,
Bows his head, and gasps "Forgive!"

2527. *When he had said this, he fell asleep.*—vii. 60.

1 SEE the first expiring witness
Qualified for glorious rest,
Meet with love's celestial meetness
Sinks on his Redeemer's breast.
Safe his soul in Jesu's keeping,
Dust to dust his body borne
Lies reposed, and sweetly sleeping
Till his heavenly Lord return.

2 O how infinite the price is
Of a slaughter'd Christian's prayer!
O how vast a harvest rises
From the seed that's buried there!
Sinful souls by grace forgiven
Rise, a countless multitude
Spread, and fill both earth and heaven
From a single martyr's blood!

3 *Saul*, the furious *Saul*, confesses
First the power of *Stephen's* cries,
Jesu's witnesses increases
For his Saviour lives and dies!
Myriads since have vied with *Stephen*,
Raised the martyrs' noble host,
Died, and in the highest heaven
Found the life on earth they lost.

CHAPTER VIII.

2528. *There was a great persecution...and they, &c.*—viii. 1.

1 WHO shall presume to' explore,
Or tell us all His mind,
If God let loose the adverse power
The wicked hands unbind?
By man doth He chastise
In vengeful wrath His own?
Or bid the raging tempest rise
To make His mercy known?

2 His love and righteousness
May they not both agree?
While God permits the world to' oppress
That all His power may see
While the whole preaching crowd
To different climes are driven
And water'd by the martyrs' blood
The church grows up to heaven.

2529. *Except the apostles.*—viii. 1.

1 UNMOVED the pillars stand,
For God ordains it so,
Supported by their Saviour's hand
They prop His house below;
Against the furious storm
They turn their steady face:
And we can all things now perform
Through His Almighty grace.

2 In this degenerate age
If persecution roar,
A few shall stand the utmost rage
Of earthly, hellish power.

And whom the Lord shall choose
For Satan to disperse
Shall fly, and spread the joyful news
Throughout the universe.

2530. *And devout men...made great lamentation, &c.*—viii. 2.

1 BLEEDING from their bosom rent
Might they not a saint lament?
From the flock by violence torn
Might they not a shepherd mourn?

2 Free from nature's fond excess
Thus we may our grief confess,
Thus a parted friend deplore
Grieved for them that grieve no more.

3 Chiefly, where the Lord of all
Doth His instruments recall,
Miss we our instructors here,
Mourn a ravish'd minister.

4 Deeply, justly sensible,
Then the general loss we feel,
Testify our grateful love,
Weep for one who sings above.

2531. *As for Saul, he made havock of the church.*—viii. 3.

1 SEE the fierce beast, whose rage untamed
Scatters the flock of Christ, and tears!
He rushes on by hell inflamed,
And neither age or sex he spares:
In vain a single victim dies;
More thirsty through a taste of blood
He foams, and vows to sacrifice
The whole exterminated brood.

2 Insatiate, fill'd with mad despite
Threatenings he doth and slaughter breathe,
As murder were his soul's delight
Numbers he hales to bonds and death ;
But let the Saviour speak with power
"Thy persecuted Lord I am,"
The furious beast is fierce no more,
The wolf himself becomes a lamb !

2532. *Unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, &c.*—viii. 7.

1 WELL the bodily possession
Doth our inward state explain,
While the fiend, with fierce oppression,
Tears the tortured soul of man ;
Then the word alone can ease us,
Gospel of redeeming grace,
Pardon in the name of Jesus
Drives the foe to his own place.

2 Where the word His blood applying
Seals forgiveness on my heart,
Spirits foul with horror crying
From their old abode depart ;
Legion now no more shall enter,
Pride shall vex my soul no more ;
Ransom'd from my dire tormentor
I my Lord and God adore.

2533. *There was a certain man, called Simon, &c.*—viii. 9.

A PLAIN indisputable case !
Once upon earth there witchcraft was,
A compact with the hellish foe ;
"But seventeen hundred years ago,
In *Asia* not in *Europe* made ;
The fiend hath here forgot his trade."

2534. *Of long time he had bewitched them with, &c.*—viii. 11.

JESUS, Thou know'st the nations still
Bewitch'd, and slaves to Satan's will
By magical illusions held
Where Thou wast never yet reveal'd,
Visit them, Lord, with gospel light
Dispersing all the shades of night,
The dark *Americans* set free,
And end the' infernal tyranny.

2535. *But when they believed Philip preaching, &c.*—viii. 12.

1 SOON as the Saviour's messenger
Did to their hearts proclaim
Glad tidings of a kingdom near
And peace in Jesu's name,
Their souls were suddenly unbound;
A long deluded crowd
The gospel word they felt, and found
The real "power of God."

2 Satan must tremble and give place
Before the Spirit's might,
The strength of efficacious grace
Puts all his hosts to flight;
His kingdom falls, his charms and spells
And works are all o'erthrown,
When Jesus in the faithful dwells
And rules their hearts alone.

3 By divination to prevail
The fiend again may try,
Received within the church's pale
His malice we defy;

Baptized into our Saviour's name
And sprinkled with His blood,
The members are with Christ the same,
And all are fill'd with God.

2536. *Then Simon himself believed also: &c.*—viii. 13.

1 CONVINCED I of the truth may be,
To Jesus' faithful servants cleave,
His mighty works with wonder see,
His sacramental rite receive,
But never let my idols go,
Or truly my Redeemer know.

2 Still in the gall of bitterness
Bound with the chains of sin I am,
Till Jesus by His blood release;
And then accepted in His name
I stand before His Father's sight
And then my sprinkled heart is right.

2537. *Thy money perish with thee, because thou, &c.*—viii. 20.

1 YE sacrilegious race
Your genuine father own
Who boldly hope to purchase grace
By what yourselves have done:
Your righteous rags unclean
Who would for pardon sell,
Your works and you are nought but sin
And fit for nought but hell.

2 Repent, and cast aside
Your fancied righteousness,
Your goodness sin, your virtue pride,
Your faith a lie, confess:

Even you may then believe
The Lord doth justify,
And freely that to sinners give
Which they can never buy.

3 Jesus exalted is
Salvation to bestow,
His rest, His Spirit, and His peace
Which all believers know :
And every soul of man
May our Redeemer love,
A pardon without price obtain,
And then a crown above.

2538. *Thou hast neither part nor lot in this, &c.* - viii. 21.

1 To the world and Satan sold,
Sinner, what is Christ to thee?
Pleasure is thy god, or gold ;
Bond-slave of iniquity
Panting for the praise of men
Canst thou feel a heavier chain ?

2 Didst thou ever yet intend
God in all thy ways to please ?
No ; the creature is thy end :
Dost thou not the charge confess?
Naked in its Maker's sight
Ask thy heart if it be right?

3 No ; thy guilty heart must own,
Far from God, and foul as hell :
Feel it now, and deeply groan
All its filthiness to feel ;
Struggle in the' infernal snare,
Sink at last in self-despair.

4 Then behold the heavenly Lamb
Pouring out His blood Divine,
On the brink of *Tophet* claim
Christ the sinner's Friend for thine;
Find with all His saints thy part,
Find thy Saviour in thy heart.

2539. *Thou art in...the bond of iniquity.*—viii. 23.

1 SINNERS, ye all remain
Fetter'd and close confined;
Sin is the iron chain
That doth your spirits bind,
Your conscience is the dungeon foul,
Satan your jailer stands,
And watches lest one guilty soul
Escape out of his hands.

2 But Jesus Christ is He
That hath a ransom found,
And preaches liberty
To souls in prison bound:
His blood shall make your conscience clean,
Cast down your hellish foe,
Break all the manacles of sin,
And let the captives go.

2540. *A man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great, &c.*—viii 27.

Lo, the thing impossible
Is by the' Almighty done,
God doth to the rich reveal
And make salvation known!
Courtiers, ministers of state,
Resolved to cast the world behind,
Willing in His house to wait,
Shall their Redeemer find.

2541. *And ..sitting in his chariot read Esaias, &c.*—viii. 28.

STATESMEN, here your pattern see,
Be found employ'd like him,
Men of power and dignity
Your precious time redeem ;
Talk with prophets on the road,
Apostles your companions own,
Search the oracles of God,
And draw His blessing down.

2542. *Philip ran...to* him, *and heard him read, &c.*—viii. 30.

THE moment we direction need
The Lord doth oft direct our way,
Instructs us by His Spirit led,
Both when to speak, and what to say :
We then with ready utterance speak
His unpremeditated word,
And help poor souls who darkly seek,
To know, and apprehend their Lord.

2543. *He desired Philip that he would come up, &c.*—viii. 31.

A CASUAL unexpected guest
Who seems at first, may yet be sent
To execute his Lord's behest,
To' interpret the Divine intent ;
Wondering we then the Master own,
The messenger with joy embrace,
Design'd to make his Saviour known,
And fill our hearts with heavenly grace.

2544. *In His humiliation His judgment was taken, &c.*—viii. 33.

JUSTICE He could not obtain
In His humble state beneath,

No humanity from man,
No relief—but pain and death.
Took from earth, He of our sins
Doth the chastisement receive,
Endless life's immortal Prince
Dies, that all mankind may live.

2545. *Who shall declare His generation?*—viii. 33.
WHO can count His worshippers,
Offspring of the slaughter'd Lamb?
Only He that tells the stars
He that calls them each by name.
Written in Thy book above
All Thy saints are known to Thee;
God of unexhausted love
Find with them a place for me!

2546. *Of whom speaketh the prophet this?*—viii. 34.
1 JESUS I humbly seek,
And of Himself inquire,
Did not the prophet speak
Of Thee, the world's Desire?
Thou poor, despised, afflicted Man,
His meaning to my heart explain.

2 Art Thou the Lamb of God
Who didst from heaven come,
Led by the multitude
Before Thy shearers dumb,
The patient, speechless Man of woe,
By sinners crucified below?

3 Swept from the face of earth
Didst Thou our sorrows bear,
Whose everlasting birth
God only can declare,

Whose countless seed shall soon arise.
And shine as stars beyond the skies?

4 Adopt me by Thy grace
Into Thy family,
My heart shall then confess
The prophet spake of Thee,
Then, to mine inmost soul made known.
I feel he spake of Thee alone.

2547. *Then Philip opened his mouth, and began, &c.*—viii. 35.

1 When Thou hast disposed a heart
Saving truth with joy to hear,
Utterance, Lord, Thou dost impart
To Thy chosen messenger,
Then he finds the Scripture key,
Then he speaks, and preaches Thee.

2 Jesus, in the sacred book
Thou art everywhere conceal'd:
There for Thee alone we look,
By Thy Spirit's light reveal'd,
Thee set forth before our eyes
Faith in every page descries.

3 Thee we preach to sinful men,
Urging them their Lord to' embrace,
Pardon in Thy blood to gain,
Hope for all the promised grace,
Glad in all Thy footsteps move,
Grasp the crown of heavenly love.

4 Thou the Saviour of mankind,
Thou the whole Salvation art;
All summ'd up in Thee I find,
All contain'd within my heart;

None but Christ on earth I know,
None but Christ to others show.

5 O that all mankind were fill'd
With the knowledge of the Lamb,
Conscious all of God reveal'd,
All baptized into His name,
Every soul with love o'erflow'd,
Wash'd and saved through Jesu's blood.

2548. *If thou believest with all thine heart, thou, &c.*—viii. 37.

1 He asks an undivided heart;
And is the whole too much for Him
Who freely did Himself impart
A world of sinners to redeem?
God hath His all on man bestow'd,
Shall man refuse his all to God?

2 Jesus the Lord I would confess,
My God with full assurance own
Who bought the universal peace,
And cleave by faith to Him alone,
The faith He never can reprove,
The faith that works by perfect love.

2549. *I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*—viii. 37.

1 Thee, Jesus, I believe the Son,
The' eternal Son of the Most-High,
Jehovah's glorious Fellow own,
Maker of all in earth and sky,
Essential God, to sinners given,
Whose presence fills both earth and heaven.

2 The sovereign everlasting Lord
Thee by the Holy Ghost I call,

Adore, by angel hosts adored,
And who before Thy Father fall,
Him I confess in Thee alone,
And have no other gods but One.

2550. *And he commanded the chariot to stand, &c.*—viii. 38.

LET us without delay
Improve the grace bestow'd;
To-day, while it is call'd to-day,
Devote ourselves to God;
With timely wisdom wise;
Nor wait our loss to mourn,
Our opportunity that flies,
And never shall return.

2551. *The eunuch saw him no more: and he, &c.*—viii. 39.

1 BEFORE a man of God we lose,
We wisely profit by his stay,
The messenger of mercy use
Who points us out the heavenly way;
Yet not to him, but Christ, we cleave,
Him for his Master's sake we love,
And neither pine, nor fondly grieve
If God His instrument remove.

2 His counsels then we bear in mind,
Rejoicing in the truth made known,
Cast all the things of earth behind,
And guided by the Spirit alone
Hold fast the faith and grafted word
Through Jesus' preaching servant given,
And following him as he his Lord
Keep on our way, and meet in heaven.

2552. *But Philip was found at Azotus: and, &c.*—viii. 40.

1 JESUS instructs His servants here
Detach'd from persons and from place,
Their providential course to steer,
And follow Him in all their ways:
To whom they shall dispense the word,
Or when, or where extend their line,
They leave entirely to their Lord,
And still adore the choice Divine.

2 Thy providence explains Thy will;
And where the pointing hand we see,
We run Thy counsel to fulfil,
And work the work prepared by Thee;
Spreading the odour of Thy love,
In journeys we pursue Thy plan,
Directed by Thy Spirit move,
Nor take a single step in vain.

CHAPTER IX.

2553. *And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings, &c.*—ix. 1.

1 THE wisdom of our God adore
Who laughs to scorn the rage of man,
Lets loose the persecutor's power,
Slackens the hellish murderer's chain,
But by their vain designs o'erthrown
He serves and stablishes His own.

2 The sacrilegious power bestow'd
By priestly hate on furious *Saul*,
Marks out the instrument of God,
Just ready for his second call;

The mission dire by Satan given
Conducts him to his Lord from heaven.

3 The war against Thy people dear
Jesus, Thou turn'st into their peace,
And Satan's fiercest messenger
Deserting doth their joy increase,
Their souls with stronger comforts bless'd,
With stronger tastes of glorious rest.

2554. *As he journeyed, he came near Damascus.*—ix. 3.

1 Ah, whither will ye fly
Ye sheep of Jesus' fold?
The death approaching nigh,
The slaughtering wolf behold:
He comes besmear'd with *Stephen's* blood
To martyr all the saints of God.

2 Now, now he ready is
To spring upon his prey,
The helpless flock to seize,
And rend, and tear, and slay!
Lord what shall stop his headlong rage,
And save Thy wasted heritage?

3 A word, a look from Thee
Can make the savage tame,
Disarm his cruelty
And change him to a lamb,
Can strike opposers to the ground
And all Thy church's foes confound.

4 Thou them in their distress
Didst at *Damascus* save,
That we when men oppress
Full confidence may have,

Rest in the fold, and safe from harm
Depend on Thine unshorten'd arm.

2555. *Suddenly there shined round about him, &c.*—ix 3.

1 He doth not seek the light,
Or labour or inquire,
It shines into his deepest night
Preventing his desire;
Not waiting for his call
It stops his mad career:
And thus the grace which ransoms all
Doth once to all appear.

2 It visits us unsought
That first celestial ray,
Preventing every serious thought
And every wish to pray;
We no advances make
To meet the God unknown,
Till mercy doth our souls attack
And seizes for its own.

2556. *Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?*—ix. 4.

1 The members here and Head above,
United in the Spirit of love
One mystic body make,
And Jesus, once a Man of woe
The sufferings of His saints below
Doth still in heaven partake.

2 Oppress'd we in His Spirit groan;
Our sorrows He accounts His own,
And answers sigh for sigh;
Fighting with God our foes are found,
And touching us, they madly wound
The apple of His eye.

3 Hear this, thou persecutor hear,
And smote from heaven with sudden fear
Before thy Smiter fall;
The madness of resistance find,
And know—the Saviour of mankind
Is rich in grace for all.

2557. *Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?*—ix. 6.

MINE eyes are ever unto Thee,
Till open'd by Thy love they see:
Yet still Thou must Thy counsel show,
For still I know not what to do:
I would not see, but in Thy light;
I would not walk, but by Thy might;
Or work a work, or speak a word,
Or think a thought, without my Lord.

2558. *He was three days without sight.*—ix. 9.

1 THREE days he groans deprived of sight,
And struggling in the Spirit's throes!
The shade of that exterior night
The blindness of his nature shows,
The state his soul had long been in,
The night of unbelief within.

2 Three days he bears the' *Egyptian* load
To' impress him with a deeper sense
Of Christ the persecuted God,
Arm'd with Divine omnipotence
His thoughts from outward things to' avert
And turn them on his wretched heart.

2559. *Behold, he prayeth.*—ix. 11.

1 THE *Pharisee* was proud and blind
Though learn'd in *Moses*' law,

Nor knew the darkness of his mind,
  But thought he clearly saw;
Who many a tedious form had made
  And read them o'er and o'er,
A thousand times his prayers he said
  But never pray'd before.

2 A zealot of the straitest sect
  May thus himself deceive,
And till he his own light reject,
  He never can believe.
But struck, and suddenly cast down,
  By one celestial ray
Compell'd his unbelief to own
  He then begins to pray.

2560. *And hath seen in a vision a man...coming in, &c.*—ix. 12.

1 Poor, and ignorant, and blind,
Hope in Thee, O Lord, I find;
Though Thou dost Thy gifts defer,
Thee I feel in darkness near:
Thou shalt lay Thy hand on me,
Give me eyes Thy love to see,
Faith and peace at once impart,
Cure the blindness of my heart.

2 Warn'd of Thy approach I wait,
Dark, but not disconsolate,
Wait according to Thy word
For the coming of my Lord:
Thou wilt soon the cloud dispel,
Pardon in my soul reveal,
Then I feel the sprinkled blood,
Then I know my Lord, my God!

2561 *Lord, I have heard by many of this man, &c.*—ix. 13.

By nature we incline
To reason against Thee,
And measure with our scanty line
Thy love's immensity;
Ignorant of Thy ways
Unable to conceive
That Thou the God of boundless grace
So greatly canst forgive.

2562. *And here he hath authority from the chief, &c.*—ix. 14.

But our High Priest above
With *His* commission sent
The chosen vessel of His love,
And alter'd *Saul's* intent;
Before his hands he laid
On those who Christ adored
Saul is himself stopp'd short, and made
The prisoner of the Lord.

2563. *To bear My name before the Gentiles, and, &c.*—ix. 15.

1 Forth against all the world he goes
Whom Christ vouchsafes to choose,
The *Gentile* ignorance to' oppose,
The stubbornness of *Jews*;
War with the rich he dares proclaim,
On pride and grandeur fall,
And through the power of Jesu's name
He more than conquers all.

2 Master, if me Thou canst employ
Thy poorest messenger,
Even I the tidings of great joy
Before the world declare;

The name which sure salvation brings
I live to testify
To *Heathens*, *Pharisees*, and kings,
And in the service die.

2564. *I will shew him how great things he must, &c.*—ix. 16.

GREAT things ordain'd for Thee to do,
Thou dost our souls prepare
By labouring strength, and patience too
Great things for Thee to bear;
Afflictions with Thy grace abound,
And make Thy favourites known,
And those who suffer most are found
The nearest to Thy throne.

2565. *And he received sight forthwith, and arose, &c.*—ix. 18.

HIS sight he first receives:
And thus the will Divine
Sometimes to humbled sinners gives
The grace without the sign:
Baptized, he then obeys,
And shows it just and fit
That all who have obtain'd the grace
Should to the sign submit.

2566. *Straightway he preached Christ in the, &c.*—ix. 20.

1 EAGER to repair the wrong
He to the church had done,
Christ he spreads before the throng
And makes his Saviour known;
Jesu's love his heart constrains,
And all who know the precious grace
Spend their utmost strength and pains
To save the sinful race.

2 Jesu's love I cannot feel
And hide it in my heart;
No: I must the secret tell,
I must to all impart,
Publish God's eternal Son—
Sinner, He bought us on the tree,
Tasted death for every one,
And offers life to Thee!

2567. *But Saul increased the more in strength.*—ix. 22.

WHO Jesus to the world confess
And preach before His foes,
Our labour doth our strength increase,
Our grace by using grows;
Our talents more and more abound,
Who Christ proclaim aloud,
And prove (His haters to confound)
This is the' eternal God.

2568. *They watched...day and night to kill him.*—ix. 24.

1 WHO lately shed the martyrs' blood
Is now himself to death pursued,
By day and night beset;
But Christ he confidently knows
Will rescue him from all his foes,
And break the hellish net.

2 Yet conscious of his Lord's design,
He will not human means decline
The threaten'd death to flee;
To ways most humbling he submits,
And by a basket's help defeats
The dire conspiracy.

2569. *Barnabas took him, and brought* him *to the, &c.*—ix. 27.

1 God will not needlessly be seen,
But lets the work be done by men
Which may by man be done,
His saints to common ways He leaves,
And in due time occasion gives
To make His wonders known.

2 Others He finds our faith to tell,
Our sights of Christ, and prosperous zeal
In publishing the word,
That saints acknowledging our grace
With joy may know, with love embrace,
Their brethren in the Lord.

2570. *And he was with them...at Jerusalem.*—ix. 28.

Where first by us it came, we there
Should chiefly the offence repair,
A better pattern give,
And show the unconverted race
How sinful men transform'd by grace
How real Christians live.

2571. *They...sent him forth to Tarsus.*—ix. 30.

Not the advice of flesh and blood,
But love for souls, and zeal for God
Lead the apostle on,
To preach Him in his native place,
That those by nature join'd, by grace
Might live for ever one.

2572. *Then had the churches rest...and were edified, &c.*—ix. 31.

1 O that now the church were bless'd
With faith and faith's increase!
Grant us, Lord, the outward rest,
And true internal peace:

Build us up in holy love,
And let us walk with God below,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
And all Thy comfort know.

2 With the humble filial fear
Be mix'd the joy of grace,
While we gladly persevere
In all Thy righteous ways:
Thus let each in Thee abide,
Let each improve the blessing given,
Till Thy church is multiplied
Beyond the stars of heaven.

2573. *All that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, &c.*—ix. 35.

NOT for the sake of health alone
Jesus His healing power displays,
But that the sin-sick kind may own
His mightier miracles of grace.
He works to make our pardon sure;
His arm omnipotent reveals,
And by a single body's cure
Ten thousand helpless souls He heals!

2574. *All the widows stood by him weeping, and, &c.*—ix. 39.

1 WHEN I have run my earthly race,
Lord, I want no greater praise
If Thy true worshippers
Their momentary loss deplore,
And widows desolate and poor
Embalm me with their tears.

2 Till then I would my hands employ
Serving them with humblest joy,
And warmest charity;

For taught of God I surely know
That ministering to saints below
I clothe and cherish Thee.

2575. *And she opened her eyes: and when she saw, &c.*—ix. 40.

1 THE poor afflicted saints
Their common loss bemoan,
And God regards in their complaints
The Spirit of His Son:
Who gave the Son of man,
He lets the servant go
Out of His arms to earth again
And tend His church below.

2 What heart can e'er conceive
How great the soul's surprise
When sent again in flesh to live
She here lifts up her eyes!
Did not her eyes o'erflow
This weeping vale to see,
These scenes of wretchedness and woe,
Of sinful misery?

3 The poor might well embrace
With joy their friend restored,
The church their powerful Saviour praise
Who thus confirm'd His word:
But could a saint return
To dwell beneath the skies,
And not with deepest sorrow mourn
Her twice-lost paradise?

4 From spirits glorified
As soon as she withdrew,
Oblivion's veil was drawn to hide
The vision from her view:

She then with double zeal
Employ'd her added days,
To do the Saviour's perfect will,
To' improve His utmost grace.
5 Superior joys above
For lengthen'd toils prepared,
And richer stores of heavenly love
Enhanced her vast reward ;
Call'd to a happier state
When all her work was done
She found a more exceeding weight
Of glory in her crown !

CHAPTER X.

2576. A *devout* man, *and one that feared God with, &c.*—x. 2.

A MAN may his Creator fear,
Devout and truly wise
Train up his house with zeal sincere,
And point them to the skies ;
May much accepted alms bestow
With constant prayer to God,
Who doth not yet his Saviour know,
Or feel the sprinkled blood.

2577. *Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for, &c.*—x. 4

1 WERE his alms and ceaseless prayers
Splendid sins in God's esteem ?
No : the Lord Himself declares
Both acceptable to Him :
Grateful both as incense rise,
Bring an angel from the skies.

2 Prayers and alms to heaven ascend,
  But they first from heaven come down:
Man to help if man intend
  Good design'd is not his own:
If to God his heart aspire
God infused the chaste desire.

2578. *Send...to Joppa, and call for* one *Simon, &c.*—x. 5.

1 THE angel might have preach'd his Lord,
  Or Christ proclaim'd Himself from heaven,
But God, to magnify His word,
  The' appointed means of sins forgiven,
Commands a pious soul to hear
The gospel from His messenger.

2 The angel from Jehovah sent,
  But points him out the common road,
Directs to Jesu's instrument,
  That man may preach a dying God:
And then the Lord His Son reveals,
And pardon by His Spirit seals.

2579. *He called two of his household servants, and, &c.*—x. 7.

WHOME'ER he doth for servants take,
The pious man will find or make
  Such as himself he is,
Teach them their heavenly Lord to' obey,
That all with him to God may pay
  Their faithful services.

2580. *A devout soldier.*—x. 7.

1 How can it be? A soldier good!
A man of war whose trade is blood!
  The' impossibility

Is done by an almighty Lord:
And still in some who use the sword
We true religion see.

2 Mercy has ways to find them out,
To make the worst of men devout:
And when a soldier trusts
His soul into those hands Divine,
Listed beneath *Immanuel's* sign
He serves the Lord of Hosts.

2581. *When he had declared all* these *things unto, &c.*—x. 8.

SERVANTS and lord, when God they fear,
An openness of heart sincere
Experience from above,
A mutual trust till then unknown,
Inspired by piety alone,
A confidence of love.

2582. *And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel, &c.*—x. 11

1 THE vision doth a church present
Descending from the heavenly place,
Not in a single corner pent,
But taking in the human race!
From all the ends of earth are brought
Poor souls into that boundless sheet,
And by a common Ransom bought
Jews, *Heathens*, *Turks* and *Christians* meet.

2 Born from above, their heavenly birth
The universal church maintain,
Collected and redeem'd from earth,
Superior to the sons of men;
In Christ their Saviour and their Head
They live the life that never dies,

Inspired, and by His Spirit led
To claim their Father in the skies.

2583. *What God hath cleansed*, that *call not thou, &c.*—x. 15.

1 NOTHING unclean can come from heaven ;
We all were pure as made by God:
And God His only Son hath given
To wash the nations in His blood :
Jesus the middle wall removed,
He made both *Jews* and *Gentiles* one,
And all are now in Christ beloved,
And all are God's, through Christ alone.

2 The creature was created good,
Though since defiled and marr'd by sin,
But Jesus pour'd the sacred flood
Which makes a world of sinners clean :
Our pristine purity restored
By water, and by blood, we find,
And HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD
Is wrote afresh on all mankind.

2584. *While Peter doubted in himself...behold, the, &c.*—x. 17.

THINGS which from without befal us
Answer oft the things within :
Thus we know the Lord doth call us,
Thus His pointing hand is seen !
For their mutual explanation
Thoughts and providences join,
Prove the Spirit's revelation
True, infallible, Divine.

2585. *While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit, &c.*—x. 19.

PETER musing on the vision,
Ready made by just degrees

For the Spirit's admonition
Farther still and farther sees:
Searching out the mind of heaven
Thus we prove it more and more,
Find that light and grace are given
Only for the present hour.

2586. *Go with them, doubting nothing; for I have, &c.*—x. 20.

STAND we for a season still
Doubting of the' Almighty's will,
Humble fear our God to' offend
Doth our active powers suspend:
But Thou wilt Thy face display,
By Thy word direct our way,
Show whate'er Thou hast design'd,
Teach us all Thy Spirit's mind.

2587. *Cornelius...was warned from God...to send, &c.*—x. 22.

"APPLY to Jesus' minister,"
Is the first lesson given
To one who doth his Maker fear,
By an express from heaven.

2588. *Cornelius...had called together his kinsmen, &c.*—x. 24.

1 OUR relatives who know not God
Dear by the ties of flesh and blood
For them we kindly care,
And if our friends we truly love
The real blessings from above
We wish them all to share.

2 Happy alone we cannot rest,
But call'd ourselves, the gospel feast
We for their souls provide,

That speaking in His minister
They all the voice of God may hear,
And feel the blood applied.

2589. *Cornelius...fell down at his feet, and, &c.*—x. 25.

How beautiful the feet appear
Of Jesus' joyful messenger!
Yet will He not from man receive
What man to God alone should give:
And can his successor permit
Adoring crowds to kiss *his* feet?

2590. *But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up, &c.*—x. 26.

1 SHALL a poor worm of grace be proud,
Or man mistake himself for God,
Or sacrilegiously allow
That others at his shrine should bow,
His idolised perfections praise,
Or set him in his Maker's place?

2 With true humility inspired
A saint abhors to be admired;
He makes his blind adorers rise,
Abhors their impious sacrifice,
Their honours blasphemously vain,
And always feels "I am but man."

2591. *Now therefore are we all here present before, &c.*—x. 33.

1 WE lift our hearts (for God is here),
Assembled in His sight appear,
And listen to the word,
Whate'er He now vouchsafes to give,
And from the servant's mouth receive
As spoken from the Lord.

2 Jehovah sends by whom He will,
And let Him now His truths reveal
His utmost counsel show,
Bless'd with a ready, resolute mind
We'll do the things by Him enjoin'd,
And practise all we know.

2592. *God is no respecter of persons.*—x. 34.

1 God is not partial in His love,
Nor e'er decreed a few to' approve
And all the rest pass by;
Whole nations unredeem'd to leave,
Who never can His grace receive,
But must for ever die.

2 The Lord to every soul is good,
For every soul He shed His blood,
That each might pardon find;
His, and the common Saviour praise,
The God of free, unbounded grace,
The Friend of all mankind.

2593. *In every nation he that feareth Him, and, &c.*—x. 35.

1 The everlasting gospel hear
To neither time nor place confined,
Whoe'er thou art thy Maker fear,
The awful Father of mankind,
The great and bountiful, and wise,
Who made, and rules both earth and skies.

2 The sovereign Cause and End of all,
Who justly claims His creature's heart,
On Him with pious reverence call,
From all acknowledged ill depart,
And, true to thy imperfect light,
Do what thy heart approves as right.

3 While thy religious actions show
  The principle of secret grace,
Led by a Friend thou dost not know
  In all the paths of righteousness,
Heathen, *Mahometan*, or *Jew*,
Thy soul is safe, as God is true.

4 Surely thou dost even now partake
  The grace and favour of thy God,
Accepted for His only sake
  Who bought the nations with His blood;
And when He makes thy pardon known,
Thou know'st that God and Christ are one.

2594. *We are witnesses of all things which He did, &c.*—x. 39.

1 Who in Jesus believe
  True witness we give
Of all He hath suffer'd and done;
  Put to death in our stead,
  How He rose from the dead,
And return'd to His heavenly throne.

2 His vouchers we are,
  And still we declare
That Himself He is willing to show;
  That He daily is seen
  By the children of men,
And converses with sinners below.

3 Though a few might suffice
  To attest His first rise,
When the Spirit of faith He imparts,
  One and all we maintain
  "He is risen again,"
And we carry the proof in our hearts!

2595. *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy, &c.*—x. 44.

1 When Jesus' meanest messenger
To sinners testifies the same,
The Spirit falls on those that hear
Forgiveness preach'd in Jesus' name,
The Holy Ghost the truth reveals,
And pardon on the conscience seals.

2 As light and heat the solar rays
Mercy accompanies the word,
The doctrine of redeeming grace
Obtain'd through faith in Christ the Lord;
And to confirm our sins forgiven
The Holy Ghost comes down from heaven.

2596. *They of the circumcision...were astonished, &c.*—x. 45.

1 Ye *Jews* of our days Who *Heathens* reject,
Confining the grace Of Christ to a sect,
His strange dispensation Of mercy adore,
While gospel salvation Is preach'd to the poor.

2 The sinners unclean Are wash'd in His blood,
The outcasts of men Accepted with God,
Through Jesus's merit They pardon receive,
And fill'd with the Spirit Of holiness live.

2597. *Can any man forbid water, that these should, &c.*—x. 47.

1 Who now the water can deny
To those that have in Christ believed,
And found their Father in the sky,
And God the Holy Ghost received?
Who can forbid the sacred use
Of what the Lord did once enjoin,
Or argue from the dire abuse
Against the ordinance Divine?

2 "But by the Holy Ghost baptized,
The truth, the substance we possess,
And need the outward sign be prized
By us, who know the inward grace?"
Yes; for He bids the wash'd with blood
Be sprinkled with the water too,
Who was himself inspired of God,
Who all the mind of Jesus knew.

3 If then ye have the Spirit known,
Ye Christians unbaptized submit
Your Lord's authority to own,
And lay your reason at His feet:
Obedience is the sacrifice
He waits from Christians to receive:
Obey; and gain Divine supplies,
And fill'd with all His fulness live.

4 Saviour of all, lay to Thine hand,
The veil from upright hearts remove,
Which will not let them understand
The true intention of Thy love:
Of water *and* the Spirit born,
May all Thy saints in one agree,
With songs of joy to God return,
And face to face Thy glory see.

2598. *He commanded them to be baptized in the, &c.*—x. 48.

God, the' eternal God and true
Residing in His Son,
Taught by the Holy Ghost they knew
To be with Jesus one:
The Father, Son, and Spirit is Lord,
One God in persons Three,
From all eternity adored
To all eternity.

2599. *Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*—x. 48.

1 If Christ His servant bless
And seal by him our peace,
Peace which speaks our sins removed,
Then we know not how to part,
For his Master's sake beloved,
Hold him in our grateful heart.

2 We wish his longer stay
Till call'd by Christ away,
Him we patiently resign ;
Closer then to Jesus cleave
Sure our Comforter Divine
Never will His people leave.

CHAPTER XI.

2600. *They...of the circumcision contended with, &c.*—xi. 2.

1 Let the true servant of the Lord
Be blamed for publishing the word
Which God vouchsafes to bless,
Let men from a false zeal gainsay,
And censure on the preacher lay
To balance his success.

2 Their narrowness of heart they show ;
But God permits it should be so
In wisdom and in grace ;
Better the *Jews* should still contend,
Than Jesus' minister commend,
And poison him with praise.

2601. *Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and, &c.*—xi. 3.

1 Ye murmur and accuse in vain,
That mingling with the worst of men
Fraternal love we show;
Our Master did with sinners eat;
His servants count it right and meet
In all His steps to go.

2 Who want the form of godliness
To them we must our love express;
But always ready are
A simple full account to give,
And with our angry brethren's leave
The matter to declare.

2602. *But Peter rehearsed* the matter *from the, &c.*—xi. 4.

1 He did not scorn to make reply,
His conduct blamed to justify
Against their erring zeal;
He did not the first place assume,
Or sit with all the pride of *Rome*,
A judge infallible.

2 From his submissiveness we know
What each to each the members owe:
And let our elders call
The men they hastily reprove,
We own ourselves in humble love
Accountable to all.

2603. *In a trance I saw a vision.*—xi. 5.

By wisdom pure, and humble love
Made slow and circumspect,
One of a thousand we approve
And all the rest reject;

Visions, and ecstasies, and dreams,
If others seek or shun,
We steer betwixt the two extremes
To credit all, or none.

2604. *I...saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild, &c.*—xi. 6.

1 To beasts we aptly may compare
The slaves of appetite,
The things of earth their only care
And sense their whole delight;
With furious hate intestine wars
The savages maintain,
And each his fellow-creature tears,
And man's a wolf to man.

2 They creep on earth who gold adore
With grovelling avarice,
On wings of pride the' ambitious soar
And seem to reach the skies;
On ashes, dust, and husks they feed,
By brutal passions stirr'd,
And none are rational indeed
But those that love the Lord.

2605. *Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, &c.*—xi. 12.

The church's servant should be wise,
Appearances of evil shun,
Walk in the light, abhor disguise,
And nothing act unseen, alone,
But vouchers for his conduct take
For Jesus' and the gospel's sake.

2606. *The Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us, &c.*—xi. 15.

1 We too of Jesus sing
Who did salvation bring;

Sinners of the *Gentiles* we
Joyful news of Jesus hear,
We the great Salvation see,
We receive the Comforter.

2 Our Father doth forgive
The moment we believe ;
Now the promise is fulfill'd,
Now our Pentecost is come,
Now the Son of God reveal'd
Makes our hearts His constant home.

2607. *Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.*—xi. 16.

1 Our true and faithful Lord
Spoke the prophetic word,
First to His apostles spake,
Then to all the ransom'd kind,
All may now the grace partake,
All the promised blessing find.

2 What the prediction meant
We learn by its event,
Gentile, *Jew*, and all our race
May the truth of Jesus prove,
Born again their Lord embrace,
Sons of God by faith and love.

3 The pure baptismal Fire
Shall me, even me inspire,
I from my own works shall cease,
I the Spirit's birth shall know,
Live the life of holiness,
Perfect holiness, below.

4 Come holy, hallowing Flame,
And plunge me in Thy name !

Partner of Thy nature then,
Then I live and sin no more,
All the promises obtain,
Lost in silent love adore.

2608. *When they heard these things, they...glorified God.*—xi. 18.

We triumph in the word's success
Whoe'er the welcome news proclaim,
The God of our salvation bless,
And magnify His precious name;
For other souls' prosperity
Joyful as for our own, we prove
The Son hath made us truly free,
And God beyond ourselves we love.

2609. *Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted, &c.*—xi. 18.

That change entire of life and heart
Which only God effects in man,
Saviour and Prince to us impart,
And in our inmost souls explain;
The death of sin, the life of grace,
We then shall feel Divinely given,
And pass, rejoicing all our days,
To that eternal life in heaven.

2610.

1 Giver of repentance, Thee
My Lord I long to prove,
O vouchsafe the grace to me,
The grief of contrite love:
Sunk in sin, to Thee I pray
Exalted on Thy glorious throne;
Saviour, Prince, Thy power display,
And break my heart of stone.

2 Waits my heart insensible
Thy mercy's power to know,
Cast the pitying look, and fill
My soul with sacred woe;
Then I to my Lord shall turn,
And conscious of the blood applied
Look on Him I pierced, and mourn
With Jesus crucified.

3 Thus my few remaining days
I would in sorrow spend,
Trampler on the God of grace
And murderer of my Friend;
Weeping till my Friend appears,
By Him, but not myself forgiven,
Till He wipes away my tears,
And comforts me in heaven.

2611.

1 SAVIOUR and Prince, I lift
To Thee my flinty heart,
Who only dost the precious gift
Of penitence impart;
Clothed with omnipotence
Thou canst the stone remove,
Thou wilt bestow the contrite sense,
For Thou, O God, art Love.

2 I wait the powerful look
Of tenderness Divine,
The sight which many a heart hath broke
Almost as hard as mine;
The piteous spectacle
Of Jesus on the tree,
Which bids my wounded spirit feel
The death He bore for me.

3 Soon as Thy cross appears
The rocks again are rent,
Sinners dissolve in gracious tears,
And I, their chief repent!
I weep, and still weep on
Till Thou my sins remove,
Lamenting with my latest groan
That e'er I grieved Thy love.

2612. *They which were scattered abroad upon the, &c.*—xi. 19.

1 WHAT can persecution do
Against the cause of God?
All things work if God be true
To spread the truth abroad;
Foes intending to destroy
His work, and slay the witnesses,
Higher raise the gospel joy,
And make the church increase.

2 God Himself prepares our way,
The door He opens wide,
Then we cheerfully obey
And follow Christ our guide,
Pilgrims o'er the desert rove,
And every place our country own,
Where we can our Saviour love,
And live to God alone.

3 Chased from home we cannot be,
Or into exile sent;
All this wilderness we see
Our place of banishment.
Servants of the church we live,
And who to death our bodies doom

Sooner they our souls shall drive
To their eternal home.

2613. *And the hand of the Lord was with them : &c.*—xi. 21.

1 LORD, if at Thy command
The word of life we sow,
Water'd by Thy almighty hand,
The seed shall surely grow :
The virtue of Thy grace
A large increase shall give,
And multiply the faithful race,
Who to Thy glory live.

2 Now then the ceaseless shower
Of gospel blessings send,
And let the soul-converting power
Thy ministers attend.
On multitudes confer
The heart-renewing love,
And by the joy of grace prepare
For fuller joys above.

2614. *Who, when he came, and had seen the grace, &c.*—xi. 23.

1 JESUS, the spirit of jealousy
Root out of all employ'd by Thee
To make Thy mercy known
That each, if Thou his brethren bless,
May praise the Lord for their success
As much as for his own.

2 Be it our greatest joy below
To see Thy heavenly kingdom grow,
Thy gracious work increase,
While multitudes are turn'd to God,
And show the virtue of Thy blood,
The power of godliness.

2615. *And much people was added unto the Lord.*—xi. 24.

1 JESUS Thy preaching servants bless,
That fill'd with faith and holiness,
Fit instruments for Thy design,
They numbers to Thy church may join,
May by the Spirit's ministry
Unite whole multitudes to Thee.

2 While sinners in Thy name they call
To' adore the God who died for all,
Let listening souls receive the grace
Which pardon brings to all our race,
Fills the glad heart with love unknown,
And makes the saved and Saviour one.

2616. *Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul.*—xi 25

1 WHO only seeks his Lord to praise
Would all into the service press,
On every creature call;
Use every help to make Him known
Who did for the whole world atone,
The dying Friend of all.

2 Joyful to share his happy toil,
Suffice for him if Jesus' smile
His faithfulness approve;
Rivals in fame he cannot fear
A man of piety sincere,
And fill'd with faith and love.

2617. *The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*—xi. 26

1 HAPPY the men who first partook
The name and nature of their Lord!
They all iniquity forsook,
And God in spirit and truth adored.
What they were call'd, they were indeed.
Anointed with Jehovah's power,

His children by His Spirit led,
And born of God they sinn'd no more.

2 But millions now with lips profane
The venerable name assume,
And dead in sins, confess in vain
That Jesus in the flesh is come :
The form of godliness they have,
The power, the unction they deny,
And will not let the Saviour save,
But *heathens* live, and *heathens* die.

2618. *Then the disciples,...determined to send relief, &c.*—xi. 29.

1 By tenderness of love to man
Their genuine love to Christ was shown :
They did not bear His name in vain,
But put His yearning bowels on,
Joyful their brethren to relieve,
And taste the blessedness to give.

2 The worldling shrinks at famine near,
More loth with his good things to part ;
The Christian doth for others fear,
He opens both his hand and heart,
To' obviate their approaching wants,
And kindly feed the needy saints.

3 The truly Christian man alone
His charity unbounded proves,
Loves and assists the poor unknown
As members of the Lord he loves,
With them his every blessing shares,
And feels that all he has is theirs !

CHAPTER XII.

2619. *And he killed James the brother of John, &c.*—xii. 2

HE hath at last his heart's desire,
Who did above the rest aspire
  To sit with Jesus on His throne:
First of the twelve he drinks the cup,
He fills his Lord's afflictions up,
  Baptized with God's expiring Son:
Ambitious of the foremost place
He all outruns and wins the race,
  With strength from Jesus' cross supplied
He dies; and sits triumphant down
Distinguish'd by a brighter crown,
  And nearest to his Saviour's side.

2620. *Because he saw it pleased the Jews, he, &c.*—xii. 3.

ONCE embark'd in wickedness
  Sinners all restraint despise,
Satan and the world to please
  Still from crime to crime they rise:
When their measure is fulfill'd,
  When they can no further go,
Then the wrath of God reveal'd
  Sends them to their place below.

2621. *He put* him *in prison, and delivered* him, *&c.*—xii. 4

1 LET fiends and men their wisdom join
  The purpose of the Lord to' o'erthrow,
They only blast their own design,
  And by their wise precaution show
That all submits to His command
Whose counsel shall for ever stand.

2 *Herod* intends a saint to kill,
  But Christ intends to set him free:
Who can resist the Sovereign will
  If God's omnipotent decree
One servant to Himself receives,
Another to His people leaves?

2622. *Peter therefore was kept in prison: but, &c.*—xii. 5.

1 THE mournful church, of *James* bereft,
  (Who bleeds his Lord to glorify,)
Beholds the zealous *Peter* left,
  But left in bonds and doom'd to die;
Helpless, disconsolate, distress'd,
  With pious, unavailing care
To save her minister oppress'd,
  She finds her sole resource in prayer.

2 No other arms but prayer she knows
  (Which mix'd with tears to heaven ascends)
To stop the fury of her foes,
  Or aid her persecuted friends;
The fervent prayer of faith Divine
  Cannot be offer'd up in vain,
When all in one petition join
  They must from God their suit obtain.

3 What shall the Spirit's will defeat,
  The joint request to God made known
When all the race of *Jacob* meet
  And *Israel's* hosts besiege His throne!
When Jesus in His members prays,
  Their prayer redeems the saint from death,
Their prayer the bloody current stays,
  And plucks the prey from Satan's teeth.

2623. *The same night Peter was sleeping between, &c.*—xii. 6.

1 WHILE his watchful friends are weeping,
Wrestling on in ceaseless prayer,
See him in the dungeon sleeping,
Careless, calm, and happy there!
Peace surpassing all expression
Fills and keeps his faithful heart,
Earnest of the full possession
Makes him eager to depart.

2 Shackled, death-devoted *Peter*
Sleeps on the beloved breast,
(Never were his slumbers sweeter,)
Dreams of everlasting rest,
Passing o'er his bloody passion
To a palace in the skies,
Sees the God of his salvation,
Grasps his Lord in paradise.

2624. *The keepers before the door kept the prison.*—xii. 6.

WHAT could earth and hell do more
Their prisoner to secure?
Let but a short night pass o'er
And *Peter's* death is sure;
Keepers, guards, and gates surround,
Yet cannot all effectual prove,
While one open way is found
Of rescue—from above.

2625. *And, behold, the angel of the Lord came, &c.*—xii. 7.

1 GOD His suffering servants sees,
And all their sorrows shares,
Leaves them to the last distress
And then He grants their prayers;

True and faithful to His word
He then His guardian power makes known,
Saves as an almighty Lord
Who never fails His own.

2 Then we testify His grace,
And ever watchful love,
Join our songs with those that praise
His hallow'd name above;
Jesus doth His church redeem
From all the rage of fiends and men,
None can ever trust in Him
Or ask His help in vain.

2626. *And, behold,...a light shined in the prison, &c.*—xii. 7.

1 'T is here my nature's state I see!
Fast bound in sin and misery,
In chains of hellish night
Ready to render up my breath
I slept, condemn'd to endless death,
Nor miss'd that heavenly light.

2 The' infernal jailer stood before,
With guards that watch'd the prison door,
Yet unawaken'd I
And link'd to Satan's soldier's lay,
(The next was execution-day,)
Nor dream'd of death so nigh.

3 'Twas then the heavenly messenger
Did in my dungeon's gloom appear;
The light of grace unknown
(Of grace which free salvation brought)
Came unexpected and unsought,
And in my nature shone.

4 Alarm'd by mercy's sudden stroke,
My careless sleeping conscience woke;
And lifting up mine eyes
I saw the glory from above,
I heard the voice of pardoning love,
Which bade my spirit rise.

5 My sins fell off, my will was free,
I rose, restored to liberty;
A messenger of peace
I put the gospel-sandals on,
And clothed with Christ, prepared to run
And spread His righteousness.

6 I follow'd my immortal Guide,
Who saved me by His blood applied,
Who did my sins redeem,
And turn'd my soul's captivity:
Yet still I ask'd how can it be?
And thought it all a dream.

7 Darkness was light, and rugged plain,
Before that heaven-descended Man
Whose footsteps I pursued:
I pass'd the first and second ward,
And opening of its own accord
The iron gate I view'd.

8 Jesus hath made me free indeed,
Into the sacred city led;
And now He tells my heart
He will not leave me here alone;
Who freely loves and saves His own
He never will depart.

9 Saviour, Thou dost my soul restore :
My body too Thy gracious power
Shall ransom from the grave,
Out of this worldly prison bring,
And show me that my Lord and King
Can to the utmost save.

10 Under the conduct of Thy grace
I follow, in the holiest place
Jerusalem above
The church of the first-born to meet,
And praise, around Thy dazzling seat
My God's eternal love.

2627. *Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath, &c.*—xii 11.

1 Reflecting on Thy wondrous ways,
Thy dealings, Lord, with me,
Unnumber'd miracles of grace
Throughout my life I see :
From all the rage of fiends and men
Escaped I knew not how,
I own'd not my Deliverer then,
But praise Thy goodness now.

2 Those steps I never should have took,
(As now I understand)
Unless Thou hadst my soul awoke,
And led me by the hand :
The dangers that I could not shun
Were hidden from my view,
And frightful obstacles unknown
Which Thou hast brought me through.

3 What but Thy grace that went before
Could earth and hell control,
And open every iron door,
And save my captive soul ?

I now my great Redeemer bless,
And taste my liberty,
And all the glory of Thy grace
With joy ascribe to Thee.

2628. *He came...where many were gathered together, &c.*—xii. 12.

1 If two agree in their request,
The blessing ask'd they must receive,
If thousands cry, and will not rest
Till God the peaceful answer give,
He shall the promised grace bestow,
And all His faithful mercies show.

2 The prayer of those that Jesus love
What can it not from God obtain?
It calls deliverance from above,
It breaks the bloody tyrant's chain,
It brings the prisoner back, to raise
Their hearts, and turn their prayer to praise.

2629. *A damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.*—xii. 13.

God passes kings and conquerors by,
And lets them in oblivion lie,
But doth to everlasting fame
Consign a simple damsel's name.
Throughout the church He makes it known
That goodness we in all may own,
In saints of every rank approve
Their joyful zeal, and patient love.

2630. *When they ... saw him, they were astonished.*—xii. 16.

1 Their wonder plainly show'd
That sueing for His aid
They had not dictated to God,
But with submission pray'd;

In humble faith made known
Their sorrowful request,
And left the' event to Him alone
Whose will is always best.

2 But God the poor attends
When saints afflicted cry,
He knows His Spirit's mind, and sends
Deliverance from the sky ;
He lifts the humble up
Who at His footstool grieve,
And more than they presumed to hope
Their Lord delights to give.

2631. *And he departed, and went into another place.*—xii. 17.

OUT of the dungeon brought,
Through reason's light alone
The' ambassador of Christ is taught
His furious foes to shun;
The man of prudent zeal
Withdraws out of their sight,
And when preserved by miracle
Preserves himself by flight.

2632. *Herod...sought for him, and found him not, &c.*—xii. 19.

1 WHERE is the boastful tyrant's power
By wonders but confirm'd the more
In cruelty and pride !
Yet all his bloody search is vain,
He never can be found by man,
Whom God is pleased to hide.

2 Jesus, from hell and earth, and sin,
Thou art a place to hide me in,
My refuge sure Thou art ;

And saved and clean escaped away,
They never shall retake their prey,
Or tear me from Thy heart.

2633. *Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon, &c.*—xii. 21.

1 *HEROD* mounts the gorgeous throne
The scaffold he ascends,
Means to' exalt himself alone,
Nor knows what God intends,
Means in the triumphant day
In brightest majesty to shine,
All his majesty display,
And stately pomp divine.

2 But the King of kings decrees
E'en now His power to show,
Blast the monarch's loftiness,
And lay the tyrant low :
Now the' oppressor's doom to seal,
Who Jesu's saints to death pursued,
Smite His foe implacable
And blood require for blood.

3 God doth thus to kings declare
His Deity supreme ;
Nothing but by Him they are,
And only reign for Him ;
Men they die, if kings they live,
And must with all to judgment come,
Quickly at His bar receive
Their everlasting doom.

2634. *The angel...smote him, because he gave not, &c.* -xii 23.

1 ADORED by the acclaiming crowd,
He falls a man, and not a god !

He falls (no sooner deified
Than smote) a sacrifice to pride,
Anticipates the fatal hour,
And worms their fellow-worm devour.

2 The man who praise from man receives,
Nor to his God the glory gives.
In him the just reward we see
Of sacrilegious vanity;
And all which nature call'd her own
We now refer to God alone.

3 But chiefly, Lord, the gifts of grace
To Thy sole glory we confess,
Afraid to rob Thee of Thy right,
And arrogate with vain delight,
Or take the homage of the throng
Which only doth to Thee belong.

4 Whoe'er, like *Lucifer*, aspire,
And suffer men their grace to' admire,
Most humbled, when exalted most,
Of Christ alone we make our boast,
And own (if we perfection name)
Perfection is with Christ the same.

2635. *And gave up the ghost.*—xii. 23.

PETER between the soldiers bound,
Ready for instant death, is freed;
Herod, amidst his courtiers crown'd
Extoll'd, and worshipp'd—is struck dead!
The hand Divine in both is seen,
That saints may all from Him receive,
And heathens know themselves but men,
And all to God His glory give.

2636. *Barnabas and Saul returned ... when they had, &c.*—xii. 25.

HAVING fulfill'd the charge enjoin'd,
A minister of grace
Returns with ready zeal, to find
His stated work and place;
Gladly, if God appoint it so,
He deals the outward bread,
But 'tis his chief delight below
Poor hungry souls to feed.

CHAPTER XIII.

2637. *There were in the church...Manaen which had, &c.*—xiii. 1.

HAPPY man with princes bred
Who knows his gracious day,
From a court's temptations freed
And clean escaped away!
With the choice of *Moses* bless'd,
The world he doth for Christ forego,
Suffers with His saints distress'd,
And serves His church below.

2638. *The Holy Ghost said, Separate Me Barnabas, &c.*—xiii. 2.

1 CHOSEN by God's immediate will,
Seal'd with the Spirit's authentic seal,
He was ordain'd before,
As Christ's ambassador had gone,
And made his Lord to sinners known,
His truth, and love, and power.

2 Yet lo, the Holy Ghost commands
The elders to lay on their hands,
And recognise His call,

To teach the apostolic way
That preachers may the church obey,
And each be sent by all.

2639. *For the work whereunto I have called them.*—xiii. 2.

CHRIST'S ministers apart are set
For work, not idleness or state,
For toils that never cease;
By Him in all their labours bless'd
Till Jesus gives His servants rest
And bids them die in peace.

2640. *So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, &c.*—xiii. 4.

1 HOLY GHOST, beneath whose power
Our praying souls we bow,
Open wide the gospel-door
Send forth apostles now:
Men by inspiration moved
The tidings of great joy to tell,
Men whose call is fully proved
By signs infallible.

2 Messengers of Christ the Lord,
The Lamb for sinners slain,
Boldly let them preach the word
Of God, and not of man:
If the word is surely Thine
Which testifies our sins forgiven,
To demonstrate it Divine,
Thyself come down from heaven.

2641. *The deputy...who desired to hear the word of God.*—xiii. 7.

NOT by the crafty wizard sway'd
The prudent man his judgment show'd,
Not of the slander'd truth afraid,
But listening to the word of God,

For God infused the good desire
And stirr'd a sinner up to' inquire.

2642. *But Elymas the sorcerer...withstood them, &c.*—xiii. 8.

1 SATAN in his ailies withstands
The preaching of that word,
Which sinners plucks out of his hands,
And turns them to the Lord ;
Which brings them faith and power to quell
The fury of the foe,
And baffle all the wiles of hell,
And all the strength o'erthrow.

2 The great are compass'd round by those
Who would their mind pervert,
The truth of saving grace oppose,
And keep out of their heart ;
But few amidst the world, desire
To find apostles near,
Or prudently resolve to' inquire,
And for themselves to hear.

2643. *Then Saul, (who also* is called *Paul,) filled, &c.*—xiii. 9.

1 WITH the Omniscient Spirit fill'd
Who knows what is in man,
Paul perceives the fiend conceal'd
From mortal view in vain ;
Looks with Jesus' flaming eyes,
Which sin-consuming virtue dart,
Sees his heart without disguise,
His false infernal heart.

2 Not with angry passion fired,
But holy fervent zeal,
By his righteous Lord inspired
His judgments to reveal ;

Paul rebukes in truth severe,
The power of Jesus to display,
Gives the wizard's character,
And drags him into day.

3 Sharpness exercised on one
Is mercy shown to all,
Warns them of the pit unknown,
Nor suffers them to fall;
Love of truth and innocence
Are to the Lamb's apostle given,
Justify his vehemence,
And prove his zeal from Heaven.

2644. *Then the deputy, when he saw what was, &c.*—xiii. 12.

1 Who sees the miracle believes,
Who feels it is an *heathen* still,
Nor yet beneath the judgment grieves,
Or bows to Christ his stubborn will;
Judgments alone cannot convert,
Or chase the fiend out of his heart.

2 One only way doth still remain
To turn a sorcerer's heart or mine;
My heart if Jesus' love constrain,
Changed from infernal to Divine,
Him and His doctrine I receive,
And saved, to serve my Saviour live.

2645. *He...believed, being astonished at the doctrine, &c.*—xiii. 12.

1 Confirm'd by daily miracle
The doctrine of the Lord, we find,
It doth the heavenly light reveal
But strikes the truth's opposers blind;
Baffles their utmost craft and power,
And leaves them darker than before.

2 Amazed the strange effects we see
  Wrought by the Spirit's two-edged sword,
And in the world's obscurity
  Discern the quick and powerful word,
Which all the sons of darkness still
Deny the Scriptures and fulfil.

2646. *John departing from them returned to, &c.*—xiii. 13.

1 Of evangelic pains afraid,
With danger or fatigue dismay'd,
    Ah, why did he draw back?
Counsel with flesh and blood he took,
That the good work which he forsook
    I never may forsake.

2 Or if I have turn'd back in heart,
Or basely threaten'd to depart,
    And from my brethren fly,
My weakness, Lord, like *John* I mourn,
And by Thy gracious help return
    With them to live and die.

2647. *Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with, &c.*—xiii. 16.

Unmoved by human hope or fear,
  Who publishes his Lord
Speaks, as Jehovah's messenger,
  The' authoritative word,
Boldly of Christ he testifies,
  And knows his Lord's intent
That those who hear should recognise
  The Sender in the sent.

2648. *Forty years suffered He their manners in the, &c.*—xiii. 18.

1 Have not I for forty years
  Wandering in the wilderness

Tempted by my doubts and fears,
Grieved the Spirit of His grace;
By rebellions multiplied
Dared my Angel-Guide to' offend,
Jesus' utmost patience tried,
Found His mercies never end.

2 Yes, Thou hast my manners borne,
God of love, to anger slow:
When I would to sin return,
Still Thou wouldst not let me go;
Oft as in my heart I err'd
Thou wast ready to forgive,
Hast till now the rebel spared,
Strangely suffer'd me to live.

3 O the depths of mercy shown
One who did Thee such despite!
Infinite my sins I own
Mercy is more infinite!
Let me then Thy grace implore
Since Thou hast so much forgiven,
Bear me a few moments more,
Lead me to my rest in heaven.

2649. *When He had destroyed seven nations in the, &c.*—xiii. 19.

1 God is the King by kings adored,
The world and all therein are His:
Empires and states fulfil His word,
And rise and sink as He decrees:
He gives earth's potentates to know
Their royal rights are in His hand,
His frown doth all their power o'erthrow,
His smile appoints their thrones to stand.

2 While *Canaan* He to *Israel* gives,
The Lord His righteous power reveals,

Sinners to just destruction leaves,
His faithful promises fulfils;
Rewards the just, idolatry
Destroys, the worship true makes known,
And stablishing His love's decree
Prepares the coming of His Son.

2650. *They desired a king: and God gave...them, &c.*—xiii. 21.

Ah, never Lord in anger grant
My foolish fond request,
But give whate'er Thou know'st I want,
Whate'er Thou know'st is best:
Happy I in Thy hands remain,
My king be Thou alone,
And in my humble heart maintain
Thine everlasting throne.

2651. *I have found David the* son *of Jesse, a, &c.*—xiii. 22.

1 Jesus, of *Jesse's* line
We sing Thy birth Divine:
God's substantial character
(Thou the real *David* art)
Thou dost all His glory bear,
Fashion'd after His own heart.

2 Thou, Lord, and Thou alone
His utmost will hast done,
Subject to Thy Father made,
Him Thou never didst displease,
Hast in every point obey'd,
Wrought a perfect righteousness.

3 With Thee we put it on,
And bold approach the throne,
We have done what God hath will'd
Whole in Thy integrity,

We have all His law fulfill'd
Dear to God as one with Thee.

4 Even I through Thy desert
Am after God's own heart,
Other merit I disclaim,
Other title I resign,
Justified by Jesus' name
Saved by righteousness Divine.

2652. *Of this man's seed hath God according, &c.*—xiii. 23.

1 God in His Son incarnate
Hath shown His promised favour,
Hath raised Him up
The sinner's Hope,
The universal Saviour;
Sprung from the house of *David*
Yet every tongue and nation
May mercy claim;
For in His name
He brings us all salvation.

2 Baptized into His nature
We bless the name of Jesus,
To us who prove
His pardoning love
Inestimably precious;
And all Thy loving *Israel*,
And every true believer,
Who now in Thee
Salvation see,
Shall see Thy face for ever.

2653. *And as John fulfilled his course, he said, &c.*—xiii. 25.

1 Jesu's every harbinger
Should decrease and disappear,

Should throughout his course below
Only Christ resolve to know,
Only manifest *His* grace,
Only glory in His praise.

2 O that like the Bridegroom's friend,
I mine earthly course might end,
Nothing in mine own esteem
Render all the praise to Him,
Live my Lord to testify,
Witnessing of Jesus die.

2654. *David, after he had served his own, &c.*—xiii. 36.

1 FATHER I would Thy will obey,
Serve Thy church in this my day,
And answer Thy design,
As minister of all and least
Till from my finish'd work I rest
Within the arms Divine.

2 Rest after toil is doubly sweet!
All my cares I shall forget
If Thou my soul receive;
Shall incorruptible arise,
And see Thee with my body's eyes,
And in Thy glory live.

2655. *Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, &c.*—xiii. 40.

1 THE prophecies foreshow'd
The justice and the grace,
The love and righteousness of God
Toward all our sinful race;
And if we still rebel,
Nor will for mercy sue,
We must His rigorous anger feel,
And prove His threatenings true.

2 Then let us all beware
While yet we may repent,
By humble watchfulness and prayer
The coming woe prevent ;
Improve the added space
Ere God His wrath reveal,
Believe the prophecies of grace,
And by our faith fulfil.

2656. *Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish.*—xiii. 41.

1 THE awful prophecy
Accomplish'd now we own,
While Christian infidels deny
And mock the God unknown :
Thy present work of grace
They will not Lord believe,
Though thousands by their lives confess,
Thou dost on earth forgive.

2 Amazed the scoffers stand,
And see on every side
The wonders of Thine outstretch'd hand
On sinners justified.
Convinced they will not be
Till mercy's day is pass'd,
In stubborn incredulity
Resolved to die at last.

2657. *The next Sabbath day came almost the, &c.*—xiii. 44.

1 LED by the word's attractive power,
The souls who once therewith are fed,
Eagerly seek and covet more
As hungering for their daily bread ;
But only God their zeal can bless,
And make it saving eagerness.

2 This fervency of good desire
How soon it cools and dies away,
These sparks of grace in smoke expire
When men perverse the truth gainsay;
They outrage then their gospel friends,
And love in persecution ends.

2658. *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, &c.*—xiii. 46.

1 Who now His work revives
In these apostate days,
Invites professors first, and gives
To you the word of grace:
Into your churches sent
With news of sin forgiven
We preach the kingdom near; repent,
Believe, and enter heaven.

2 If harden'd ye remain,
Refuse by faith to live,
The gift of righteousness disdain
Which God would freely give;
Ye wilfully refuse
The life of glory too;
And know, ye grace rejecting *Jews*,
There is no heaven for you.

3 Embolden'd through the name
Which speaks salvation sure,
Our call we follow, and proclaim
The gospel to the poor;
Repulsed by you we know,
And guided by His will,
To the highways and hedges go,
And thus our charge fulfil:

4 The sons of wickedness
The slaves of open sin,
Outcasts and vagabonds we press,
And force them to come in :
And lo from sin released
Heathens obey the call,
Baptized, or unbaptized they feast
With Him who died for all.

2659. *I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles.*—xiii. 47.

1 True Light of mankind,
Shine into the mind
Of poor *heathens* like me,
And open our eyes Thine appearing to see.
The obscurity chase
Which involves our whole race,
Till Thou bid it depart,
And the blindness remove from the infidel heart.

2 When Thy mercy appears
It disperses our fears,
Blots out the thick cloud,
And shows us the face of a pacified God ;
By the heavenly ray,
We discover our way,
By the Spirit of love
We are led to the house of our Father above.

2660. *I have set thee...that thou shouldest be for, &c.*—xiii. 47.

1 The unspeakable Grace
By faith we embrace,
Whom His Father doth give,
In the ends of the earth our salvation receive ;

Salvation from sin
With Jesus brought in
We exult to obtain,
And the favour of God and His image regain.

2 O that all the lost kind
Our Redeemer might find,
On the *Gentiles* bestow'd
Who bought the whole world with His life-giving blood.
Who would have them believe,
And His fulness receive,
And created again
For a moment endure, and eternally reign.

2661. *As many as were ordained to eternal life, &c.*—xiii. 48.

1 ORDAIN'D, prepared, disposed
By His preventing grace,
With Christ they gladly closed,
The Friend of human race;
Their proffer'd Saviour they received,
And every open'd heart believed.

2 Saviour and Friend of men
Be still benignly near,
And us to life ordain
Who now Thy gospel hear,
Incline us to depart from sin,
And thus Thy grace and glory win.

3 Our broken hearts prepare
By deepest poverty,
And then by entering there
Fulfil Thine own decree
That every penitent may find
The' eternal Life of all mankind.

2662. *But the Jews stirred up the devout and, &c.*—xiii. 50.

1 See the last brutish refuge, see
Of baffled infidelity!
Enraged at our success,
Our words unable to gainsay,
The world their impotence betray,
And seek by force to' oppress.

2 Shall women too the fight maintain,
Their sex forget, their honour stain,
By furious passions stirr'd,
Devoutly show their blindfold zeal,
Or think whoe'er the servants kill
Must greatly please the Lord?

3 Shall men of name and dignity
With basest rioters agree,
And head the multitude?
Or magistrates their power abuse,
As fools employ'd by wicked *Jews*
To persecute the good?

4 In Satan's cause they all combine;
And then we fly by God's design
To other sinners driven,
Who gladly our report believe,
And listening crowds the truth receive,
And know their sins forgiven.

2663. *But they shook off the dust of their feet against, &c.*—xiii. 51.

1 The dust shook off, shall rise
In judgment to condemn
Sinners, who dare the men despise,
That offer Christ to them;

The dust shook off shall prove
Salvation once was near,
But they refused the Master's love
Who spurn'd the messenger.

2 Who put their guides to flight,
Nor will the truth obey,
Reject with them the gospel light
And cast the salt away :
Who faithful men and just
Out of their pale expel,
Out of the church themselves they thrust,
Themselves they doom to hell.

2664. *And the disciples were filled with joy, &c.*—xiii 52.

1 THE' apostles fly the faithless race
But other sinners find,
Their work perform'd they leave the place,
But leave their Lord behind;
On those who suffer for their God
His glorious Spirit rests,
And sheds His rapturous love abroad,
And fills their ravish'd breasts.

2 The messengers they cannot miss
Who have the Master still,
The largest taste of heavenly bliss
Who in His Spirit feel :
And in the day of our distress
We too shall gladly own
That stripp'd of all, we all possess
In Jesus' love alone.

CHAPTER XIV.

2665. *And so spake, that a great multitude both of, &c.*—xiv. 1.

1 THEY spake more boldly than before,
Demonstrating the Spirit's power
Who ready utterance gave;
They spake, commission'd from above
To publish their Redeemer's love,
And listening souls to save.

2 *Gentiles* and *Jews* at once believed,
And both into the fold received
Were in one body join'd
Through Jesus reconciled to God,
Whose grace on all alike bestow'd
The Saviour of mankind.

3 Who now dispense the pardoning word,
So let us speak and preach the Lord,
That numbers may embrace
Their Saviour in their hearts reveal'd,
And live with all His Spirit fill'd,
With all His life of grace.

2666. *Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly, &c.*—xiv. 3.

1 MADE by persecution strong
If Christ His strength bestows,
There we shall continue long
Where infidels oppose,
Confident our Lord proclaim,
Our Peace and Advocate with God,
Preach salvation through His name,
And pardon in His blood.

2 Bold in our almighty Lord,
While Thee we testify,

Present to confirm the word
We on Thyself rely :
Thou Thy confessors confess,
The truth in sinners' hearts reveal,
Welcome news of saving grace
By Thy own Spirit seal.

3 More than outward wonders show
On those that humbly hear,
Let their souls the witness know
The' indwelling Comforter ;
Let their lives resemble Thine
And preach the kingdom from above,
Holy joy and peace Divine,
And pure unbounded love.

4 Thus Thy testimony give
To all who speak for Thee,
Thus let thousands turn and live
In faith's sincerity ;
Through our ministerial hands
Ten thousand more with grace supply,
Power to practise Thy commands,
And live for God and die.

2667. *But the multitude of the city was divided : &c.*—xiv. 4.

1 Not peace but a divisive sword
On earth the Saviour sends ;
His enemies are by the word
Distinguish'd from His friends ;
But if the world refuse to know
The joys His people feel,
Better, that part to heaven should go,
Than all rush on to hell.

2 No neuters in the Christian war,
But all are friends or foes ;

And lo, I for the truth declare ;
I have my party chose ;
Safe on the apostolic side,
(For there my Lord I see,)
Jesus, I still resolve to' abide
In life and death with Thee.

2668. *They were ware of* it, *and fled unto Lystra, &c.*—xiv. 6.

THE flight of those by Jesus sent
That sinners may His grace obtain,
To some a fearful punishment,
To others is an heavenly gain ;
To every faithful soul that hears
Christ in His exiled messengers.

2669. *And there they preached the gospel.*—xiv. 7.

AND let the world His servants chase
Who spread the news of Jesus' love,
We travel on from place to place,
And Jesus preach where'er we rove ;
Rejoice what we receive to give
Who only by the gospel live.

2670. *The apostles...rent their clothes, and ran in, &c.*—xiv. 14

PRAISE is the proof, the touchstone praise
Which Jesus' faithful servants tries :
To sinners who dispense His grace,
Dare ye refuse their sacrifice?
The most refined applause of men
Incense prepared with nicest art,
Can ye reject with just disdain,
Can ye abhor with all your heart?

2671. *We also are men of like passions with you.*—xiv. 15.

1 As in the watery glass
Face corresponds to face,

The heart of man to man
In pleasure and in pain,
With strictest sympathy agrees,
And feels the same infirmities.

2 Even saints by grace renew'd
Dread to be counted good,
Confess their own desert
When God hath cleansed their heart,
When all His image they regain
They rank themselves with sinful men.

2672. *Scarce restrained they the people, that they had, &c.*—xiv. 18.

MAN from adoring man
Can scarcely be withheld,
Yet urged a thousand times in vain
His due we will not yield
To God, who left the skies
Our sins and us to part,
And asks no other sacrifice
Than a poor broken heart.

2673. *Who having stoned Paul, drew* him *out of the city.*—xiv. 19.

WHO can the sudden turns explain,
Or trust the various hearts of men?
This hour they cry with sacred fear,
The gods in human shape appear!
The next, they contradict the word,
And persecute whom they adored,
Curses instead of praises give,
And stone the wretch not fit to live.

2674.

AND can a messenger be proud,
Extoll'd by the admiring crowd,
Honours Divine with joy receive,
Which sinners blasphemously give?

Ah, no: the praise that comes from men
Exchanging for reproach and pain,
He would be like the' apostle tried,
And rather slain than deified.

2675. *Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about, &c.*—xiv. 20.

Oft in deaths before he dies
A dying life he lives,
Oft repeats his sacrifice,
And all to Jesus gives;
Breathes again, of breath bereft,
And starts afresh his course to run,
Never by his Saviour left
Till all his work is done.

2676. *And the next day he departed, &c.*—xiv. 20.

When the work and cause of God
No more require his stay,
To the torrent of the crowd
A minister gives way;
Outraged by their fierce despite,
Not obstinate his foes to brave,
So he saves himself by flight,
Immortal souls to save.

2677. *They returned again to Lystra, and* to *Iconium, &c.*—xiv. 21.

Who his Lord and pattern knows
Will render good for ill,
Seek again his cruel foes,
Through him they sought to kill:
To his charge he hastens back,
His faith in thickest dangers proves,
Cannot finally forsake
Whom more than life he loves.

2678. *Confirming the souls of the disciples*, and, *&c.*—xiv. 22.

1 SAVIOUR, Thy preaching servants bless,
When most we suffer in Thy cause
Our labours crown with full success,
And spread the doctrine of Thy cross;
As vessels of confirming grace
Give us to build Thy people up,
To root and ground the pardon'd race
In loving faith, and patient hope.

2 O may we still the truth declare
Which flesh and blood cannot receive,
Our brethren for the lot prepare
Of all resolved in Thee to live;
Teach us their calling here to show
Which ascertains the glittering prize,
The narrow path of sacred woe]
That leads Thy followers to the skies.

3 This is the consecrated way,
The true and royal way to God;
Here will we with our Captain stay,
And strive, resisting unto blood:
The suffering and reward are sure;
And who Thy daily cross sustain,
And faithful unto death endure,
We, only we, Thy crown shall gain.

2679. *And when they had ordained them elders in*, *&c.*—xiv. 23.

1 ELDERS if the church ordain,
Ministers in things Divine,
All should strive the grace to' obtain,
All in prayer and fasting join,
Faithfully approach the throne,
Bring the heavenly blessing down.

2 Every soul for them should plead,
Who the common burden bear,
Each desire their work may speed
Who for every sinner care,
Men by Christ Himself design'd
Christ to spread through all mankind.

2680. *They commended them to the Lord, on whom, &c.*—xiv. 23.

MAY we not trust our flock to Him,
To Him our children leave,
Who did their precious souls redeem,
Who did their pardon give?
Jesus the saving grace bestow'd,
And will His saints defend,
Who hang on their redeeming God,
Till faith in vision end.

2681. *When they were come, and had gathered the, &c.*—xiv. 27.

1 WHEN ministers make known
What God by them hath done,
We who pray'd for their success,
Thankful for our answer'd prayer,
Testify His faithfulness,
All His gracious works declare.

2 With joy we now approve
The truth of Jesus' love,
God, the universal God
He the door hath open'd wide,
Faith on sinners poor bestow'd,
Wash'd them in His bleeding side.

3 Purged from the stains of sin,
By faith they enter'd in,
Purchased and redeem'd of old,
Added to the chosen race,

Now received into the fold
Heathens sing their Saviour's praise.
4 With them we lift our voice,
Partakers of their joys,
Conscious of the blood applied,
Freely all through faith forgiven ;
Faith renews the justified,
Faith unfolds the gates of heaven.

2682. *And there they abode long time with the disciples.*—xiv. 28.

Oft an evangelic guide
Finds his work diversified,
Useful still by all confess'd ;
Change of labour is his rest:
Where he makes his long abode
Building up the church of God,
God by him His power displays,
Stablishes our hearts with grace.

CHAPTER XV.

2683. *Certain men which came down from Judea, &c.*—xv. 1.

1 Men from her infancy have rose
Disturbers of the church's peace,
The yoke of needless things to' impose,
Of outward vain observances ;
The gospel and the law to blend,
Deny the power of grace unknown,
As sinners would His doctrine mend
Nor suffer Christ to save alone.
2 Redeem'd through faith by blood Divine
They tell us now we cannot be,
Unless our righteous actions join
And *Moses* help to set us free :

The *Judaizing* teachers cry
We must the grace through works receive,
We must ourselves the pardon buy
Which Jesus cannot freely give.

2684. *Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension, &c.*—xv. 2.

1 OUGHT we to yield and condescend,
When *Pharisees* the truth gainsay,
Or strenuous for the faith contend
Which others silently betray?
The truth opposed we boldly own
That all are saved by grace alone.

2 Who but the' apostles of the Lamb
Shall this important point decide?
They teach through faith in Jesus' name
Sinners are freely justified;
And the whole church this doctrine calls
The truth by which she stands or falls.

2685. *They declared all things that God had done with them.*—xv. 4.

OCCASION of great joy and praise,
We to the church afford,
Who tell the miracles of grace,
The goodness of our Lord:
His only goodness we declare,
Who all the work hath done,
And humbly seek with jealous care
To' exalt our God alone.

2686. *Certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, &c.*—xv. 5.

1 FAITH, which when it comes, sets free
And purifies the heart,
Doth not perfect purity
And light at once impart:
Errors and mistakes remain,
And various prepossessions blind:

Purged by Christ from every stain
We know not all His mind.

2 Justified through faith alone
We may in *Babel* dwell,
May in words the truth disown
Which in our hearts we feel ;
Still as saved by works and grace
To *Moses* and his law incline,
Add our human righteousness
To righteousness Divine.

2687. *The apostles and elders came together for, &c.*—xv. 6.

JESUS their true and constant Guide
Had promised with the church to stay,
In His unerring Spirit to' abide
And lead them in the perfect way :
Yet dared they not the help refuse
Which nature's God did first bestow,
Who will'd them all the light to use
That reason sanctified could show.

2688. *God made choice among us, that the Gentiles, &c.*—xv. 7

1 HAPPY the man by Jesus sent,
Mercy's chosen instrument
That sinners may receive
The gospel of redeeming grace,
Their Friend and Peacemaker embrace,
And savingly believe.

2 Oh that the happiness were mine !
Lamb immaculate Divine,
I would Thy love proclaim,
Declare how full of grace Thou art,
That heathens poor in life and heart
May truly bear Thy name.

3 While at my mouth the outcasts hear
Tidings of salvation near,
Of present, endless rest,
Saviour, let faith by hearing come,
The weary prodigals bring home
And lodge them in Thy breast.

2689. *God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them, &c.*—xv. 8.

1 THE witness of the Lord is sure
Who only can impart
The faith which makes a sinner pure,
The love which fills his heart:
Proof incontestable He gives,
And all may see and know
That every true believer lives
As Jesus lived below.

2 By works of outward righteousness
They show the root within,
The Spirit of sanctifying grace
In all His fruits is seen;
His holy name and character
In them the Father owns,
And all their spotless lives declare
They are His genuine sons.

2690. *God...giving them the Holy Ghost,...purifying, &c.*—xv. 8, 9.

GOD of grace, vouchsafe to me
That Spirit of holiness,
Sighs my heart for purity,
And pants for perfect peace;
Spirit of faith, the blood apply,
Which only can my filth remove,
Fill my soul, and sanctify
By Jesu's heavenly love.

2691.

By Thy Spirit's inspiration
Bid my evil thoughts depart,
All the filth of pride and passion,
Purge out of my faithful heart:
Then I shall with joy embrace Thee,
Meet to see Thy face above,
Then I worthily shall praise Thee,
Then I perfectly shall love.

2692. *Purifying their hearts by faith.*—xv. 9.

1 The unbelieving heart's unclean,
The faithful heart is purged by sin
While Christ His blood applies,
Which cleanses us from every stain,
Sprinkles and washes us again,
And daily purifies.

2 He will not first bestow on me
The faith and then the purity,
But both at once impart;
And when His mercy He reveals,
In love Divine His Spirit seals
My pardon on my heart.

3 My heart is set on things above,
Detach'd from every creature love;
And more and more renew'd,
Closer and closer still I cleave
To Him, and grace for grace receive
Through His atoning blood.

4 Lord, if Thou dost my faith approve
And Thee in some degree I love,
My little faith increase;

So shall I know and love Thee more,
Till fill'd with all Thy Spirit's power,
With all Thy holiness.

5 Contemplating Thy shining face
Reflected in the gospel glass,
I too, like Thee, shall shine,
Shall put Thy brightest glories on,
Clothed with the uncreated Sun
Of righteousness Divine.

6 Yet something still Thou know'st will be
Lacking in faith and purity
Till Thou the want supply ;
I then the crowning grace receive,
And Thou who giv'st me faith to live,
Wilt give me faith to die.

2693.

1 MINE earnest expectation
Is to its Author known ;
I thirst for Thy salvation,
I gasp for God alone.
I want the constant Witness
Of my Redeemer's love,
The' anticipating fitness
For all the joys above.

2 O might Thy hallowing Spirit
My soul for heaven prepare,
And make me meet to' inherit
The highest raptures there !
Not by a single blessing
Or sudden stroke of grace,
But through Thine act unceasing
I trust to see Thy face.

3 While on Thy blood relying
My Saviour I adore,

Thy Spirit sanctifying
Shall change me more and more
From glory into glory,
Till quite mature I rise
Thy bliss untransitory
To share in paradise.

2694.

1 If God the Holy Ghost impart,
The living faith bestow,
His Spirit purifies the heart,
And makes us white as snow:
The heart that in His Son believes
Is purged from every stain,
And he who still to Jesus cleaves
Shall never sin again.

2 O would my gracious God confer
The Spirit of faith on me,
A foul desponding sinner cheer
By peace and purity!
Father in me reveal Thy love
If reconciled Thou art,
And all the filth of sin remove,
And keep my sprinkled heart.

3 The heart which in Thy Son confides
No longer is unclean,
Where Purity Himself resides
It must be pure from sin;
O may He dwell by faith in mine,
And thus Himself explain,
The real Holiness Divine
The perfect love in man!

2695.

1 What but the Spirit of faith Divine
Can purify a heart like mine,

The seat of every noisome lust,
Unclean, unholy, and unjust,
The sink of pride and vanity,
As Satan's, contrary to Thee.

2 Yet if in me Thy Spirit dwell
The Pledge, the Witness, and the Seal,
My heart shall lose its inbred stain,
Holy, and just, and pure remain ;
Free from concupiscence, and pride,
While God doth in His house reside.

3 Thy presence makes the hallow'd place,
And keeps the vessel of Thy grace ;
Thy presence saves my soul from sin,
Which never more shall enter in,
When Thou art with Thy Father come
To fill Thine everlasting home.

2696. *A yoke...which neither our fathers nor we, &c.*—xv. 10.

1 Who can the yoke of *Moses* bear ?
It drives a sinner to despair ;
Crushes the soul, but not relieves,
Commands, but no assistance gives,
Confounds, but not destroys our pride,
And lets us still in death abide.

2 The law our irksome duty shows,
But no obedient power bestows,
It brings us light and knowledge vain
More to increase our sin and pain,
It aggravates our heaviest load,
And leaves us to the curse of God.

3 But Jesus' death hath set us free
From sin and curse and penalty ;
For us He purchased on the cross
A power to keep His righteous laws,

To bear His easy yoke, and prove
All His commands fulfill'd in love.

2697. *But we believe that through the grace of the, &c.*—xv. 11.

1 Not by a legal righteousness,
Or works ourselves have done,
But freely saved we are by grace
Through faith in Christ alone:
Our God is pleased to justify
Who in His Son believe;
And when we first on Him rely
The pardon we receive.

2 Through faith we then are saved by grace
From sin's oppressive power,
And pure in heart behold His face,
And God in Christ adore;
Through faith we claim His whole desert,
And in His image shine,
Created after His own heart
In holiness Divine.

3 The power of efficacious love
In each believing soul
Doth all remains of sin remove,
And sanctify the whole:
And thus prepared with God to live
We lay our bodies down,
And faith's triumphant end receive
In an immortal crown.

2698. *Then all the multitude...gave audience to, &c.*—xv. 12.

1 Who Jesus revere
To His servants give ear,
While we publish and show
The miraculous work of His mercy below;

His astonishing grace
To the reprobate race,
Who are saved and set free
By a sight of the Lamb, as He hangs on the tree.

2 They had nothing to plead,
Not a word, or a deed,
Not a truly good thought,
When His mercy appear'd with a pardon unsought.
They were strangers to God,
An heathenish crowd,
They had nothing to pay,
When He wash'd all their sins in a moment away.

3 Freely pardon'd they were,
And to sinners declare,
Who all evil have done
May with them be absolved by His mercy alone;
By believing in Him
Ever near to redeem
A poor desperate race,
And to save the whole world by His wonderful grace.

2699. *I will return, and will build again the, &c.*—xv. 16.

1 THEE Jesus, and Thy church below
In *David* and his house we see,
The souls which sin did once o'erthrow
Shall they not rise restored by Thee?
Surely Thou wilt Thy house repair,
And fix Thy constant presence there.

2 We look for our returning Lord
To raise the nations from their fall;
Thou wilt according to Thy word,
In pardoning grace appear to all,
Visit the whole apostate race,
And stir them up to seek Thy face.

3 The *Heathens* still Thy creatures are,
Blind children of a God unknown,
Thy work, their Maker's name they bear
Whose blood did for their sins atone;
And those who bear the Christian sign,
Heathens baptized, are doubly Thine.

4 Come then, and claim Thy property,
Thou Friend and lover of mankind,
Let every soul be found in Thee,
In Thee his great Restorer find,
That all our ransom'd world may own
The saving work is all Thine own!

2700. *Known unto God are all His works from, &c.*—xv. 18.

1 Nothing can escape Thine eye
Who at a single view
Past and future dost descry,
And all Thy works look through:
All Thy works at once are known,
And grasp'd by Thine immensity;
Present, past, to come are one
Eternal now with Thee!

2 All Thy other works are wrought
That Thy great work of grace
May be to perfection brought
In the peculiar race;
Stands the world for this alone,
That here prepared to reign with Thee,
Saints may soon ascend Thy throne,
And God for ever see!

2701. *Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain, &c.*—xv. 24.

1 The authors of their flock's distress
Wise pastors will forbear to name,

Yet openly their mind express
And all erroneous guides disclaim;
The faithful should the false deny,
Though of their own community,
The zealots blind who preach a lie,
And contradict our God's decree.

2 Full of a false misguided zeal
The genuine gospel they debase,
Greatly withstand the men who tell
Poor souls that they are saved by grace:
Poor souls unsettled they subvert,
And from the gospel hope remove;
And nothing can repair the hurt
But true, Divine, enlighten'd love.

2702. *It seemed good unto us, being assembled with, &c.*—xv. 25.

1 HAPPY church when all are join'd
In one spirit, heart, and mind,
In the truth's defence agree,
In the bond of charity
All at Jesus' glory aim,
All rejoice to speak the same!

2 None affects dominion there,
Challenges the' unerring chair;
None the hoodwink'd people guides,
Magisterially decides,
Bids the rest submit to him
Judge infallible, supreme.

3 On the common good intent
All conspire with one consent
Peace and concord to restore,
Saints aspire to nothing more;
Only seek by this to prove
Jesus and His church they love.

2703. *Men that have hazarded their lives for the, &c.*—xv. 26.

1 UNWORTHY of the ministry
Most unqualified is he
Who doth not life despise,
For Jesus and His church below,
And freely to the mountain go
Where his Redeemer dies.

2 Jesus, if Thou my Master art,
Bless me with the martyr's heart,
The ministerial grace;
I then Thy ready servant am,
And all the virtues of Thy name
In life and death confess.

2704. *It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, &c.*—xv. 28.

1 WHO then shall needless things impose
Their own authority to prove,
Or make new laws to govern those
That, subject to their Saviour's love,
Deny the Antichristian claim,
And bow to none but Jesus' name?

2 Authority in things Divine
Belongs to God and God alone:
Whate'er His oracles enjoin
Our only rule of life we own:
And rulers by His power are seal'd
To see the laws of Christ fulfill'd.

2705. *Abstain...from blood.*—xv. 29.

1 THE solemn interdict of blood
(In honour of the blood Divine
Which life on all mankind bestow'd)
The Spirit did Himself enjoin;

The church by His direction led
With cordial unanimity
The' original command obey'd,
And ratified their Lord's decree.

2 From *Noah's* down to *Moses'* days
From *Moses* to our God reveal'd,
Beyond the apostolic race
The law continued unrepeal'd;
After a length of ages pass'd
Who then so greatly could presume
To cancel the decree at last?
The man of sin that reigns at *Rome.*

2706. *From which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall, &c.*—xv. 29.

LET teachers false their sentence close
With dire anathemas and woes,
Let the fierce partisans of *Rome*
To death and sure damnation doom;
The' apostles of the Lamb we see
With love confirm their mild decree;
Love is the truth's authentic seal,
And bids obedient souls Farewell.

2707. *When they had read, they rejoiced for the, &c.*—xv. 31.

1 IF one concise epistle read
Did such abundant comfort give,
Such mighty joy administer'd,
What may we not from all receive
By the inspiring Spirit given
That saints on earth may reign in heaven!

2 The sacred book on man bestow'd
But one Divine epistle is,
Which teaches the whole mind of God,
Which fills our hearts with heavenly bliss,

And makes unto salvation wise,
And gives us thrones above the skies.

2708. *Judas and Silas, being prophets also, &c.*—xv. 32.

1 JESUS our Desire and Hope,
All Thy church's wants supply,
Raise Thy preaching servants up,
Send them forth to prophesy,
Fill their mouths with words of grace,
Fill their lives with righteousness.

2 Taught to teach Thy people here
By the unction from above,
Blessings let them minister,
Build us up in faith and love,
Execute Thy saving plan,
Bring us to a perfect man.

2709. *They were let go in peace: notwithstanding, &c.*—xv. 33, 34.

GOD to apostolic men
An holy freedom leaves,
By some secret way unseen
The true direction gives:
Oft His servant's heart inclines
To that or this distinguish'd place,
Answers thus His own designs,
And manifests His grace.

2710. *Let us go again and visit our brethren in, &c.*—xv. 36.

1 DISPENSERS of the gospel grace
Visit their flock in every place,
The state of each to see;
To water what their hands had sow'd,
And mark their children's growth in good,
In faith, and charity.

2 The church engrosses all their care;
Anxious how every soul may fare
They every soul attend,
From place to place unwearied go,
Till all their faithful toils below
In rest eternal end.

2711. *Barnabas determined to take with them John, &c.*—xv. 37.

1 DESERTERS willing to come back
We should like *Barnabas* receive,
And yet of *Paul* example take
Nor fugitives uncensured leave,
Lest others should embolden'd be
As hirelings from the flock to flee.

2 'Tis not a slight offence to start
And quit the post by heaven assign'd;
If once from Jesus I depart,
And cast the care of souls behind,
Whoe'er the penitent receive,
I never can myself forgive.

2712. *The contention was so sharp between them, &c.*—xv. 39.

1 WHY were they left to disagree?
Not to encourage sin,
Or prove the' impossibility
Of constant peace within;
Not to confirm the daring lie
'Gainst Christ the Finisher,
Or countenance the men who cry
"There's no perfection here."

2 The fault, if fault indeed there was,
In one apostle stood,
Eagerly partial in the cause
Of his own flesh and blood:

And God to teach us watchfulness
Let the sharp contest rise,
That we may pray, and never cease
Till harbour'd in the skies.

3 Saviour, by Thy permissive will
The fellow-labourers part
The gracious counsels to fulfil
Of Thy most loving heart;
They part to' advance the work Divine,
To spread Thy victory,
And by the separation join
Ten thousand more to Thee.

2713. *Paul...departed, being recommended, &c.*—xv. 40.

1 THE pastor when his flock he leaves,
A parting benediction gives;
The flock his prosperous labours shares,
And helps the pastor by their prayers,
His fatherly concern approve
With piety of filial love.

2 To God each other they commend,
And showers of grace on both descend;
In body for a while they part,
Inseparable still in heart;
To earth's remotest corners driven,
They part below to meet in heaven.

2714. *He went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming, &c.*—xv. 41.

1 HE lost his ancient colleague's aid,
But Jesus left him not alone,
Himself with His apostle stay'd,
His all-sufficient grace made known;
And lo, with double power endow'd
He flies to build the church of God.

2 Lord of the gospel-harvest, give
Such labourers now Thy church to raise,
That saints entirely Thine may live,
Stablish'd in truth and righteousness,
Strong in the faith which cannot move,
Sunk in the lowest depths of love.

CHAPTER XVI.

2715. *Him would Paul have to go forth with him, &c.*—xvi. 3.

WHO seeks the souls of men
Above all earthly views,
A fellow-labourer to gain
Will no occasion lose:
If Providence present
A man to preach the word,
He marks the chosen instrument,
And claims him for his Lord.

2716. *And took and circumcised him because of the, &c.*—xvi. 3.

THE pastor good and wise
Doth hindrances remove,
And every just expedient tries
Of condescending love.
He gives his freedom up
(Yet pure from guile or sin)
All things becomes to all, in hope
Some precious souls to win.

2717. *As they went through the cities they delivered, &c.*—xvi. 4.

1 FREE from self-exalting pride,
They their associates own,

Would not, though inspired, decide
And rule the church alone:
Elders with themselves they join'd,
Allow'd the meanest saint his part,
All who had the Spirit's mind,
And knew the Saviour's heart.

2 Thus from error's endless maze
The faithful we secure,
Teaching them the ancient ways
We make their footsteps sure;
To the saints where'er we go
The apostolic laws we give;
Walking by this rule, they know
The life that angels live.

2718. *They were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach, &c.*—xvi. 6.

1 MASTER of His own word and grace,
The Lord is wise in all His ways,
And knows His own design;
His gospel sends where'er He will,
The sovereign purpose to fulfil
Of purest love Divine.

2 His counsellors we cannot be,
The motives of His actions see,
The reasons comprehend;
But should with silent awe adore,
Nor pry into His choice before
Our faith in vision end.

3 He now instructs us to receive
The gifts which He vouchsafes to give,
With humblest thanks and praise;

For if we claim them as our right,
We force Him to withdraw the light,
And to revoke the grace.

2719. *From Troas, we came...to Samothracia, &c.*—xvi. 11, 12.

1 HIGHLY favour'd them we call
Who the apostle heard,
While an holy preaching *Paul*
The joyful news declared;
We even we may now obtain
The grace as often as we will,
Read the words he utter'd then,
And hear him preaching still.

2 With Divine instructions fraught
We his epistles see,
Learn the heavenly truth he taught,
And taste the liberty:
Oh would all the truth embrace,
The welcome news with us receive,
Justified by Jesu's grace,
And saved, for ever live!

2720. *We went out of the city by a river side, &c.*—xvi. 13.

EACH precious opportunity
A zealous minister improves,
To publish grace divinely free,
To preach the Man who sinners loves,
Sinners with open arms receives,
And grace to every beggar gives.

2 721.

1 WOMEN, excused from public care,
Design'd for nobler service seem;

God gives them time in frequent prayer,
His handmaids to attend on Him;
And more to piety inclined
We always see the gentler kind.

2 Women we own the foremost still
Where stated prayer is made to' appear,
They first the place of worship fill,
They first the joyful tidings hear,
The welcome messengers receive,
And patterns to the faithful live.

2722. *A certain woman...which worshipped God, &c.*—xvi. 14

1 By prayer disposed to hear the word
Which did the saving faith convey,
She readily received her Lord;
But He inclined her heart to pray,
And carried on the work begun,
And made His pardoning mercy known.

2 The Lord whoever truly hears,
Sincere in an imperfect state,
Least of His outward worshippers,
Earnest for farther light to wait,
The gospel-light shall clearly see,
And feel "The Saviour died for me."

2723. *Whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended, &c.*—xvi. 14.

To me, almighty Saviour, give
Thy servant's sayings to receive,
The true simplicity impart,
The nobleness of *Lydia's* heart:
Of every heart Thou hast the key,
Command that mine may yield to Thee,
May hear Thy whisper in Thy word,
And opening now admit its Lord.

2724. *She besought* us *saying, If ye have judged, &c.*—xvi. 15.

HER house is open'd with her heart,
Soon as Jesus doth impart
The faith that works by love:
And still whoe'er in Him believe,
Their Saviour's messengers receive
As angels from above.

2725. *A certain damsel possessed with a spirit, &c.*—xvi. 16.

THE nations dark who long beguiled,
Till silenced by that *Hebrew* child
And banish'd from his *Delphic* fane,
Returns to mock the world again,
The curious fools that still presume
And pry into the things to come,
The oracles of God despise,
But trust in hell's ambiguous lies.

2726. *She cried, These men are the servants of the, &c.*—xvi. 17.

1 PARTLY false and partly true
Is Satan's oracle:
No salvation is for you
Apostate spirits of hell;
Christ the Way, ye lying fiends,
To men, and not to you we show;
Kept for pain that never ends
Your dreadful doom ye know.

2 Servants of the Lord Most-High
No other voucher need;
Commendations we defy
Which from your mouth proceed;
Praise abhorr'd cannot ensnare;
With you all commerce we disclaim,
Who the way to heaven declare
The faith in Jesus' name.

2727. *Paul...said,...I command thee...to come out of, &c.*—xvi. 18.

PAUL exorcised the maid possess'd,
And Satan chased out of her breast;
But now the wiser world 's afraid
To ruin the diviner's trade;
You, who the laws of God repeal,
Permit the fiend in souls to dwell;
And much the superstitious doubt
If all *your* "Acts" could cast him out.

2728. *When her masters saw that the hope, &c.*—xvi. 19.

THE' accursed love of money leads
The haters of our Lord
To all unjust and cruel deeds
'Gainst us who preach His word;
Who hinder your dishonest gains
Ye would not have us live,
And while your thirst of gold remains
Ye never can forgive.

2729. *These men ...do exceedingly trouble our, &c.*—xvi. 20, 21.

DISTURBERS of the public peace,
We do indeed molest
Poor souls who dwell in sinful ease,
And will not let them rest;
Truths which the world could never bear,
We openly avow,
Pardon in Jesus' blood declare—
And all may feel it now!

2730. *And the multitude rose up together against, &c.*—xvi 22.

1 THE tools of bad revengeful men
Even Christian magistrates will be,
Unless they steadily maintain
Their place, and sacred dignity,

All things with calmest caution prove,
And truth revere, and justice love.

2 The world did thus Thy saints entreat
Of whom the world unworthy was !
And still they seize, and tear, and beat
The zealous champions of Thy cause,
Rabble and rulers join to shame
The confessors of Jesus' name.

2731. *When they had laid many stripes upon them, &c.*—xvi. 23.

THY servants, Lord, in every age
The' afflictions of the gospel share,
And midst the persecutors' rage
Thy name among the *Gentiles* bear ;
Answer their ministerial call,
All conquering, by enduring all.

2732. *Thrust them into the inner prison, &c.*—xvi. 24.

1 NUMBER'D with the transgressors see
The faithful followers of the Lamb !
Partakers of *His* infamy
They glory in the sacred shame,
His bonds and stripes with joy abide,
And bow to Jesus crucified.

2 How beautiful their feet appear,
When fetter'd for their Saviour's sake !
His people's Strength and Comforter
Doth on Himself their burden take ;
And in the dungeon's deepest gloom
Their joy is full, their Light is come !

2733. *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, &c.*—xvi. 25.

1 THE person sanctifies the place ;
The prison where a saint's confined

Becomes a house of prayer and praise,
Where angels and archangels join'd
Extol the grace to sinners given,
In presence of their Lord from heaven.

2 In hunger, weariness, and pain,
Cover'd with stripes and streaming blood,
In chains and stocks behold the men!
The friends and confessors of God!
As pure, impassive spirits they rest,
With glorious joy supremely bless'd.

3 Their prayer calls down the' eternal King,
And conscious of the answer'd prayer
Like seraphs on their thrones they sing,
Beatified—for Christ is there!
Sorrow before His presence flies,
And heaven is darted from His eyes.

2734. *And the prisoners heard them.*—xvi. 25.

1 They heard the strange unwonted sound
Of joy enhanced by smart and woe,
Of liberty in fetters found:
The voice of saints who Jesus know,
Which comforts every soul that mourns,
And dungeons into temples turns.

2 They heard the voice so rarely heard
By wretches poor in bonds confined,
The voice which spake their God prepared
Imprison'd spirits to unbind,
Out of their sinful sleep to raise,
And fill their hearts with prayer and praise.

2735. *And suddenly there was a great earthquake, &c.*—xvi. 26.

In suffering saints when Jesus cries
The prayer by mighty signs is seal'd;

It brings deliverance from the skies,
  It shows Jehovah's arm reveal'd,
The earth from its foundations shakes,
And sinners dead in sin awakes.

2 Nor earth nor hell its power withstands,
  Open it throws the prison doors,
It looses every captive's bands
  Their souls to liberty restores,
While all confess the pardoning God,
And feel redemption in His blood.

2736. *The keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep.*—xvi. 27.

1 As soon as suffering saints require
  That Jesus may their foes forgive,
He satisfies His own desire,
  He bids the persecutors live,
And lo the vilest wretch and worst
Find mercy and salvation first.

2 What but the power which wakes the dead
  Could reach a stubborn gaoler's heart,
In cruelty and rapine bred,
  Who took the ancient murderer's part?
Could make a harden'd ruffian feel,
And shake him o'er the mouth of hell?

2737. *He drew out his sword, and would have killed, &c.*—xvi 27.

Urged by his old infernal lord,
  Who fear'd to lose his lawful prey,
He draws the self-destroyer's sword
  Body and soul at once to slay,
Nor knows the End of sin and fear,
His true eternal Life was near.

2738. *But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, &c.*—xvi. 28.
He sees him with the Saviour's eyes,
(Eyes that in thickest darkness see,)
In vehemence of affection cries,
As taught by Jesus on the tree,
Evil to recompense with good,
And save the foes who shed his blood.

2739. *He...fell down before Paul and Silas.*—xvi. 29.
The sufferers who His name confess
God amply recompenses here :
The chosen vessels of His grace
He calls them forth to minister
That Spirit which from Jesus flows,
And uses them to save their foes.

2740. *What must I do to be saved?*—xvi. 30.
Saved from the present guilt they feel,
Saved from the future wrath they dread,
Lost sinners sinking into hell
With all their crimes upon their head,
Pardon and holiness may claim,
And heaven through faith in Jesus' name.

2741.
Must I not do all I can?
Yes ; and own the labour vain,
Feel my utter helplessness,
Feel salvation is of grace :
When I have my utmost done,
Lord, I look to Thee alone,
Help my unbelief, or I
Must with all my doings die.

2742. *What must I do to be saved?...Believe, &c.*—xvi. 30, 31.
Author of our sure salvation,
Author of our faith Thou art,

Call me out of condemnation,
  Sprinkle with Thy blood my heart,
Give the faith that moves the mountain,
  Pardon'd, saved by faith alone,
Lead me through that open fountain
  To Thine everlasting throne.

2743.

1 O THAT I could but act on Thee
  One simple act of faith Divine !
Saviour I then from sin set free
  Should truly call Thy fulness mine :
Believing through Thy grace alone
  My pardon truly I receive ;
And if I once Thy love have known,
  Redeem'd I may for ever live.

2 O help my unbelieving heart
  To pant, and break, and struggle through ;
Till Thou the faithful power impart,
  Thou know'st I know not what to do ;
I only can of Thee inquire
  What must I do to' escape from sin ?
Answer ; fulfil Thine own desire,
  And cleanse my heart by entering in.

3 Fast bound in chains of hellish night,
  I still for full redemption groan ;
Arise, Thou everlasting Light,
  And send a ray of glory down,
Emit that emanation pure
  Which only can my griefs remove,
My fears disperse, my evils cure,
  And tell my soul that God is love.

2744.

1 ALAS, what shall, or can I do
But what I have already done?
My labour vain again renew,
My search after a God unknown?
Were there a mean 'twixt heaven and hell,
I could my anxious hopes forego:
But if with God I cannot dwell,
I must with fiends in endless woe.

2 What must I do? who hears my heart,
God, the incarnate God reply,
And save me through His own desert
Before the second death I die;
Through faith in His atoning blood
Which purges all iniquity,
Which for a world of sinners flow'd,
Mercy there is reserved for me.

2745. *Thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*—xvi. 31.

ALL, except the children? No:
Them the Lord will not accept
Members of His church below,
For His heavenly kingdom kept.
Who would helpless infants wrong?
Through the consecrating blood
Infants all to Christ belong,
Infants all are dear to God.

2746. *They spake unto him the word of the Lord, &c.*—xvi. 32.

HAPPY prisoner of the Lord
Who his persecutors wins,
Souls redeems through Jesus' word,
Sinners looses from their sins!
Paid for all his toil and pain,
Minister of saving love,

Greater joy he cannot gain
Till he finds his place above.

2747. *And he took them the same hour of the, &c.*—xvi. 33.

1 FAITH cannot unfruitful prove,
Cannot its effects defer:
Well he might return their love,
Wash their stripes with grateful care.
They with greater tenderness
Pour'd the balm into his soul,
Minister'd the gospel grace,
Made his wounded spirit whole.

2 While their host with loving zeal
Kindly doth his patients tend,
Would they not of Jesus tell,
Point him to his dearest Friend?
Lo; the Crucified appears,
See, the bleeding tokens see!
Sinner wash them with thy tears,
Kiss the stripes He bore for thee!

2748. *He...rejoiced, believing in God with all his, &c.*—xvi. 34.

1 IT cannot be a house of woe
Where souls their dear Redeemer know,
And glory in His love:
Partakers of the life Divine,
With joy unspeakable they join
The family above.

2 O that in every house there were
A church who could their Lord declare,
And saved by grace alone
Rejoice with joy of faith sincere,
Till confident we all appear
Before the' eternal throne!

2749. *The magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, &c.*—xvi. 35.

1 THE Lord our persecutors knows,
And can convince of sin
Our bloodiest, most remorseless foes,
By secret checks within;
Make them reverse the judgment rash,
The force of conscience find,
And smart beneath the torturing lash
Of their own guilty mind.

2 We, and the men whose wrath we feel,
Are in the Saviour's hand;
And all the powers of earth and hell
Must stoop to His command:
If He their enmity suspends,
Or bids their malice cease,
Our foes themselves become our friends
And bid us go in peace.

2750. *But Paul said unto them, They have beaten, &c.*—xvi. 37.

1 HE would not urge the plea before
To' avoid his Saviour's pain and shame,
But cheerfully the scourging bore,
For Jesus had endured the same,
And bade His patient followers rise
In all His footsteps to the skies.

2 He pleads his privilege at last,
And puts his conscious foes in fear
That *Heathens* when their rage was pass'd,
Might injured innocency clear,
And magistrates themselves confess
The troublers of the public peace.

3 A Christian innocently may
Insist on his external right,

Nor yet through fear the truth betray,
Or shamefully decline the fight,
Or hope, engaged in Jesus' cause,
To gain the crown without the cross.

4 The world in every age the same,
Will never wait our cause to know:
To us who teach the slaughter'd Lamb
No mercy or remorse they show;
All laws and justice they defy,
And execute before they try.

2751. *They went out of the prison, and entered, &c.*—xvi. 40.

THEY would not obstinate appear,
Or warmly their advantage press,
As far from anger as from fear,
At peace with enemies to peace;
Departing at their foes' request,
A testimony sure they leave
In every persecutor's breast
That Christians can like Christ forgive.

2752. *And entered into* the house of *Lydia: and, &c.*—xvi. 40.

1 NEVER weary of well doing,
Never faint with braving ill,
Jesus' saints their work pursuing,
Faithful and laborious still,
Share the mighty consolation
With their sympathising friends,
Largest earnest of salvation,
Glorious joy that never ends.

2 Give us Lord like them to' inherit
Thy benevolence of mind,
Peace and quietness of spirit,
Fervent love and unconfined,

Arm us with Thy perfect patience
  Till we have the world o'ercome,
Pass'd through all our tribulations,
  Reach'd our everlasting home.

CHAPTER XVII.

2753. *Paul, as his manner was, went in unto, &c.*—xvii. 2.

His manner was, when it could be,
  Their rules and orders to maintain,
Friend of external decency,
  Jesus he preach'd, the Life of man,
First at the wonted time and place,
And then to all the ransom'd race.

2754. He *reasoned with them out of the scriptures, &c.*—xvii. 2, 3.

1 Reason he did not cast aside
  As a vain gift on man bestow'd,
Nor deem'd it a sufficient guide
  To' interpret all the mind of God,
But rightly used its glimmering ray
Which show'd the need of brighter day.

2 Discoursing from the written word,
  Strong arguments of Christ he gave,
Dead, and again to life restored,
  By both a sinful world to save:
He died for all your sins to' atone,
And raised, He draws you to His throne.

3 Preachers of Christ, His death we prove
  The' accomplishment of His decree:
That strange necessity of love
  Humbled and nail'd Him to the tree:

Yet urge, evince, and testify
That God, or all mankind must die.

4 His death the prophecies fulfill'd,
And laid the general ransom down,
The promises His rising seal'd,
Ensuring man's immortal crown :
And Jesus whom we preach, is He
The Christ that died and rose for thee.

2755. *And some of them believed, and consorted, &c.*—xvii. 4.

ADDED to the chosen seed
The moment we believe,
All who truly hold the Head
Will to the members cleave :
Many, Lord, yet one in Thee,
(If Thou our common Saviour art,)
From each other's company
Nor life nor death can part.

2756. *And of the chief women not a few.*—xvii. 4.

GRACE not the rich prefer,
Doth not the rich refuse ;
Saved alike by Christ they are
If all for Him they use ;
If for Him they all forsake,
Jesus declares their pardon sure,
Raises, and vouchsafes to make
Them equal to the poor.

2757. *The Jews which believed not, moved with, &c.*—xvii. 5.

1 SATAN his zealous servants hath,
And doth as champions send
Strangers and enemies of faith
His kingdom to defend :

The vulgar great provoke the small,
The people's lowest lee
Is stirr'd by their allies, and all
In Satan's work agree.

2 Eager to see the men suppress'd
Who point us to that blood,
They rouse the many-headed beast,
The frantic multitude;
With drunken rioters engage
To prop their master's cause,
And by a lawless rabble's rage
Supply defective laws.

3 The city they with uproar fill
With blasphemies and fears,
Assault that they may seize and kill
The hated messengers.
Servants of Christ, your calling see!
By all abused, abhorr'd,
In life and death His followers be,
And triumph with your Lord.

2758. *These that have turned the world upside, &c.*—xvii. 6.

1 CHRIST's little flock who vex and tear
The troublers of our *Israel* are,
The restless foes to peace;
They set the city in a blaze,
And then a furious outcry raise
'Gainst *us* incendiaries!

2 The sons of violence misuse,
And then as rioters accuse
The quiet in the land:

The difference plain 'twixt wrong and right,
Falsehood and truth, and day and night,
They will not understand.

3 The Lamb, they say, disturbs the stream,
The world confounded is by them
Who its confusions end:
Yet still "Away with them," they cry,
"The Christians burn, or crucify,
Or to the lions send.

4 "Discord they bring, and civil strife,
Poison the sweets of private life:
Our ways as folly shun,
Against our rules and customs go,
And all our maxims wise o'erthrow,
And turn us upside down.

5 "The rich they set below the poor;
Pleasure renounce, and mirth abjure,
Obstruct and ruin trade;
Order and government invert,
Their baleful influence exert,
And make the world run mad."

6 The world which lies in wickedness,
To interrupt their hellish peace
With loving zeal we try:
Sinners alarm'd, where'er we come
We warn of their impending doom,
Ye must repent or die.

7 Soon as in you the word takes place,
Renew'd, transform'd by saving grace,
Ye former things forget;

The change throughout your lives is shown,
The world out of your hearts is thrown,
And cast beneath your feet.

8 Preferr'd to those that seem'd the best,
The worst of men with pardon bless'd
Superior honours gain ;
Poor beggars into princes rise,
Look down on kings, this earth despise,
And one with Jesus reign.

2759. *Saying...there is another king,* one *Jesus.*—xvii. 7.

1 YES ; another King we own,
Him the sovereign Lord maintain :
Raised, upheld by Him alone,
Earthly potentates, ye reign:
We by His authority
Cæsar's due to *Cæsar* give,
Subjected to man's decree,
Subjected to Jesus live.

2 Clothed with majesty Divine
We the King of kings adore,
All our hearts to Him resign,
Ruled by love's resistless power :
What His kingdom is we know,
Who our Lord's afflictions bear ;
Reigning by His cross below
We His heavenly throne shall share.

2760. *They troubled the people and the rulers.*—xvii. 8.

MOVED by every wind the sea,
Soon the multitude is stirr'd,
Soon the world incensed may be
'Gainst the servants of our Lord :

Mob and magistrates are join'd
  On the messengers to fall ;
Then the strength of God we find,
  Then through Christ we conquer all.

2761. *When they had taken security of Jason, &c.*—xvii. 9.

WHO always took His people's part,
  He interposes still,
Jesus, that made the human heart,
  And turns it at His will.
Rulers, if He permits, oppress ;
  Or just compassion show,
As friends of equity and peace
  They let His prisoners go.

2762. *The brethren immediately sent away Paul, &c.*—xvii. 10.

1 WHO trust in His protecting grace,
  Nor rash nor negligent,
We use the common means and ways
  For our deliverance sent :
Through love and honour of the cross,
  The stewards of His word
We dare not prejudice the cause
  And interest of our Lord.

2 Labouring till all our work is done
  The middle course we steer,
With equal care and caution shun
  Audaciousness and fear :
We neither humble nor presume,
  Prepared to stand or fly :
But when the joyful hour is come
  We get us up, and die.

2763. *These were more noble...in that they, &c.*—xvii. 11, 12.

1 CAN we in unbelievers find
That noble readiness of mind
To hear, investigate, and prove
The truth of Jesus' pardoning love?
Yes, Lord; through Thy preventing grace,
There are who cordially embrace
The joyful news of sins forgiven,
With God Himself sent down from heaven.

2 Up from the sleep of nature stirr'd,
They daily search Thy written word,
Inquiring if these things be so,
To Thine own oracles they go:
Thine oracles the answer give,
And willing multitudes believe
The gospel by Thy Spirit seal'd,
And find Thy glorious Self reveal'd.

3 What then are they that dare forbid
The unconvinced Thy book to read,
Who take the sacred key away,
Damp their desire to search and pray,
Conceal Thy records from their view,
"The Scriptures were not wrote for you:
Accept your more unerring guide,
The church, the Catholics—*the bride!*"

4 Turn, sinners, turn from such away,
And rather God than man obey,
The Scriptures search both day and night,
And try if what ye hear be right;
Put forth your grain of gracious power,
(Your use of that shall bring ye more,)
Till the true Light Himself impart,
And breathes the Witness in your heart

2764. *Many of the honourable women believed.*—xvii. 12.

1 WOMEN in days of old
Did Jesus' flock increase,
The fearful sex were bold
Their Saviour to confess,
And gladly sacrificed their fame ;
And gloried in the Christian name.

2 Who bare the title then
Of high or low degree,
Exposed to grief and pain
And loss and infamy,
Were call'd the fiery test to' abide,
And shame, and bonds, and death defied.

3 'Tis not the name, but thing,
But truth of Christian grace
Doth now the scandal bring
On the anointed race:
But who will sell their character,
And Jesus' love to life prefer?

4 Not many rich and great
And honourable now
Renounce their pride and state,
Or dare to Jesus bow ;
Women of rank the cross disclaim,
And lose their souls to save their fame.

2765. *When the Jews...had knowledge that the, &c.*—xvii. 13.

1 O HOW restless is the foe
Jesus' kingdom to o'erthrow!
Fill'd with diabolic zeal,
All the messengers of hell
Labour on and never cease
True religion to suppress.

2 Shall not we as zealous prove
Publishers of Jesu's love,
Spread the savour of His grace,
Scatter life in every place,
Dare the world's and Satan's frown,
Turn *his* kingdom upside down?

2766. *Immediately the brethren sent away Paul.*—xvii. 14.

1 True love will readily give place,
True wisdom counts it no disgrace
From violent rage to fly;
To fly, and spare the guilt of those
Who truth maliciously oppose
And fight with the Most-High.

2 Our persecuting foes to shun
From city we to city run,
Yet still 'tis all our aim
Our suffering Master to confess,
And Christ the universal Peace
Throughout the world proclaim.

2767. *Receiving a commandment unto Silas, &c.*—xvii. 15.

An envious, proud, and selfish man,
Will partners in his work disdain,
But holy humble *Paul*
The gospel everywhere to spread,
Doth faithful fellow-labourers need,
And asks the help of all.

2768. *He saw the city wholly given to idolatry.*—xvii. 16.

1 Where can we now a city see
Not given to idolatry?
Altars the world to idols raise,
To Pleasure, Power, and Wealth, and Praise;

Whate'er they fear, desire, esteem
Is a false deity to them :
But few the' almighty Jesus own,
The God supreme,—the God unknown !

2 A zealous servant of the Lord
Will surely feel his spirit stirr'd,
With zeal and just abhorrence moved
To see the creature served and loved :
Set up in their Creator's place
By a poor blind apostate race,
By all the superstitious crowd
Who self and pride prefer to God.

2769. *Therefore disputed he in the synagogue, &c.*—xvii. 17.

PURE apostolic zeal
Cannot inactive lie ;
A preacher will his message tell
Whoe'er the truth deny ;
He must the tidings spread
In synagogues and streets,
And Jesus risen from the dead
Proclaim to all he meets.

2770. *Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, &c.*—xvii. 18.

1 *ZENO* and his followers still
With *Epicurus* join,
Men that their own lusts fulfil,
And live the life of swine ;
God they think resembles them,
His providential care deny,
Pleasure count their good supreme,
And wish like beasts to die.

2 *Stoics* with the sons of ease
Can against Christ agree,

Christen'd sages, who confess
A blind fatality;
Swollen with pride and self-regard
On vice they scornfully look down;
"Virtue is its own reward,
And wants no other crown."

3 Both the clashing sects unite:
Yet still the gospel spread
Brings immortal life to light
With our reviving Head;
Vice, and virtuous pride confounds,
Rejects our filthy righteousness,
Sends us *lost* to Jesus' wounds,
And saves the world by grace.

2771. *What will this babbler say?*—xvii. 18.

MEN of philosophic pride,
Fond of themselves alone,
Blindly censure and deride
The things they have not known:
Wisdom in a mystery
To *Greeks* it always folly was,
God expiring on a tree
To save us by His cross!

2772. *May we know what this new doctrine, &c.*—xvii. 19.

1 YES; ye all may comprehend
This doctrine strange yet true:
God did from His throne descend,
And tasted death for you:
Conqueror of the grave, He rose
To prove a sinful world forgiven,
Pardon purchased for His foes,
And purity and heaven.

2 This the doctrine new receive
By our first father known :
In the Second Man believe,
And live through faith alone,
Life the glorious gospel brings,
Through that atoning blood applied,
Lifts you into priests and kings,
And seats you by His side.

2773. *Thou bringest certain strange things to, &c.*—xvii. 20.

1 CHRIST presenting to their view
Their resurrection here,
Setters forth of doctrines new
We to the wise appear :
Things astonishing we tell
By vain philosophy untaught,
Love incomprehensible,
And souls redeem'd for nought !

2 The stupendous things of God
To guilty man we show,
Testify the grace bestow'd
Which every soul may know ;
News we bring of cancell'd sin
From Him, whose love is unconfined,
Nothing can His mercy mean
But life—for all mankind !

2774. *All the Athenians...spent their time in, &c.*—xvii. 21.

1 MODERN *Athenians*, hear
Your worthless character,
Unprofitable men,
Who seem to live—in vain,
Dissolved in academic ease,
In learned luxurious idleness.

2 In worse than childish play
Ye lounge your time away;
Your talents misemploy'd,
Your life a useless void,
As God who did your being give
Design'd you for yourselves to live.

3 Inquisitive to know
The trifling things below,
The things ye will not learn
Which precious souls concern,
Ensure your real happiness,
And seal your everlasting peace.

4 Yet here your curious pride
Is never satisfied,
Who restlessly pursue
On earth amusements new,
Till gasping out your idle breath
Ye feel the novelties beneath.

2775. *Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, &c.*—xvii. 22.

PAUL in its strongest fortress here
The wisdom of the world assails:
Arm'd with the Truth he cannot fear,
The great Essential Truth prevails,
And one to Power almighty join'd
Is sure to conquer all mankind.

2776. *I found an altar with this inscription, &c.*—xvii. 23.

1 THY poor external worshipper,
My poverty I own,
With trembling hands an altar rear
As to the God unknown!

Left by a God who hides His face,
And seemingly forgot,
I own in darkness and distress
That now I know Thee not.

2 Yet drawn by Thine alluring grace
Still after Thee I feel,
And worship toward the holy place,
And seek the' Invisible;
I follow on and cannot rest
Till I my Maker see,
And with His special presence bless'd
Perceive my God in me.

3 Wilt Thou not soon display Thy heart
In Jesus reconciled,
Thy servant graciously convert
Into a loving child?
Father, Thy Deity declare
In Jesus Christ reveal'd,
Acknowledge Thine undoubted heir,
An heir of glory seal'd.

2777. *Whom...ye ignorantly worship, Him, &c.*—xvii. 23, 24.

1 Ye sprinkled *Heathen* hear,
Who urged by fear alone
Your superstitious altars rear
Unto the God unknown:
Him I to you proclaim
The sovereign Lord Most-High,
Who built this universal frame,
And reigns above the sky.

2 One only Shrine He had
Where once on earth He dwelt,

When God was flesh for sinners made,
And seen, and heard, and felt :
Substantially reveal'd
In Christ the Father shone,
His fulness then the Temple fill'd,
The body of His Son.

2778. *Neither is worshipped with men's hands, &c.*—xvii. 25.

1 CAN the great God His creatures need?
His creature doth from Him proceed
Who life, and breath, and all things gives ;
Him when we worship, serve, and praise,
In love and condescending grace
His majesty its own receives.

2 Him self-sufficient and alone,
Fountain of every good we own,
And humbly rendering Him His right
Our spirits at His footstool lay,
Our prostrate adoration pay,
And sink to nothing in His sight!

2779. *And hath made of one blood all nations, &c.*—xvii. 26.

1 WE all are sprung from *Adam's* line,
The workmanship of Love Divine,
Who doth His family disperse ;
God all our motions regulates,
The time of our duration sets,
And spreads us o'er the universe:
Nothing to fate or chance He leaves ;
The nation's bounds to each He gives,
To each assigns their measured land ;
Rivers their course appointed know,
And seas by His direction flow,
And everlasting mountains stand.

2780. *That they should seek the Lord, if haply, &c.*—xvii. 27.

1 BE it to every nation known,
On earth we live for this alone,
To seek the Lord who placed us here;
By reason's feeble aid to feel
After the great Invisible,
If haply we may find Him near.

2 We may in all the creatures find
The proofs of an Eternal Mind,
Of Power and Wisdom from above:
But when His Spirit He imparts,
We feel our Maker in our hearts,
And know that God in Christ is love.

2781. *Though He be not far from every one, &c.*—xvii. 27, 28.

1 FAR off we need not rove
To find the God of love,
In His providential care
Ever intimately near,
All His various works declare
God, the bounteous God, is here!

2 We live, and move, and are
Through His preserving care;
He doth still in life maintain
Every soul that moves and lives;
Gives us back our breath again,
Being every moment gives.

3 Who live O God in Thee,
Entirely Thine should be:
Thine we are a heaven-born race,
Only to Thy glory move,
Thee with all our powers we praise,
Thee with all our being love.

2782. *As certain also of your own poets have said, &c.*—xvii. 28.

1 FATHER, Thine offspring own
Regenerate in Thy Son :
Doubly Thine in Christ we live,
Thine adopted children now ;
Heathens would in vain conceive,
Reason fails to tell them *how*.

2 Through faith in the God-Man
A being new we gain ;
Strong in hope we higher rise,
Swiftly move Thy face to see ;
Live the life that never dies,
Find our heaven—in loving Thee.

2783. *We ought not to think that the Godhead is, &c.*—xvii. 29.

1 WHEN man cast off his Maker's yoke.
Inferior form'd to God alone
By reason and his God forsook,
Silver and gold, and wood and stone.
His sordid deities he made,
Senseless as that to which he pray'd.

2 When Christians lukewarm grown, and cold,
Their Saviour neither loved nor fear'd,
Grosser than all the *Pagans* old,
The' idolatries of *Rome* appear'd,
And taught the superstitious crowd
That man might make, and eat—his God !

2784. *Because He hath appointed a day, in the, &c.*—xvii. 31.

1 REPENT, ye self-destroying race,
Improve the momentary grace
He offers you once more ;

Obey His merciful command ;
The end of all things is at hand,
The Judge is at the door !

2 Expecting that appointed day,
When heaven and earth shall flee away
Before their Maker's frown,
I pass my time in watchful fear,
Till Jesus in the clouds appear,
Till the great God come down.

3 The Man who suffer'd in our stead
His Father raised Him from the dead,
Ordain'd the Judge supreme,
That all at His tribunal placed
May be pronounced accursed or bless'd,
Condemn'd or crown'd by Him.

4 Assured I am by Jesus' rise
To see Him coming in the skies,
The Man who died for me,
That crucified with Him below
I may His glorious kingdom know,
And God for ever see !

2785. *When they heard of the resurrection of the, &c.*—xvii. 32.

PROUD sinners who in learning trust,
Learning unsanctified,
The hope and wisdom of the just
They always will deride ;
The power of faith and godliness,
The preachers they condemn ;
And our true glory we confess,
Is to be hiss'd by them.

2786. *Others said, We will hear thee again of this, &c.*—xvii. 32.

1 LOVERS of earthly things defer
Unto another day

The one important business here,
As life would always stay,
As grace were in the sinner's power,
And God compell'd to give
Whene'er they find a vacant hour
His mercy to receive.

2 The gospel some with scorn refuse,
The joyful tidings hate,
Others neglect the grace to use,
And still procrastinate;
To scoff the saving truth they dare,
Or cast it quite aside,
And these, alas, the Christians are,
And these the world divide.

2787. *So Paul departed from among them.*—xvii. 33.

1 They promised him again to hear
The message he declared,
But God's neglected messenger
Again they never heard;
So short his stay in learning's seats,
So soon their time is o'er!
And Christ's ambassador retreats,
And *Paul* returns no more!

2 What numbers like the' *Athenians*, mean,
And vow to turn at last,
But linger to forsake their sin,
Till all their trial's pass'd!
The man of God is call'd away
Who preach'd salvation nigh,
And souls outstand their gracious day,
And unconverted die.

2788. *Among the which* was *Dionysius the, &c.*—xvii. 34.

1 LEARNING itself cannot withstand
If God lay to His mighty hand;
The Judge submits, if mercy calls,
And at his Saviour's footstool falls :
The word cannot return in vain,
Some souls the saving faith shall gain,
To Jesus and His members cleave,
And pure from sin in *Athens* live.

2 Father regard Thy Spirit's groans,
Who pleads in us for learning's sons,
Open our nation's boasted eyes,
And make them with Thy wisdom wise ;
Some converts to our *Athens* give,
Who may to thy apostle cleave,
Fools for His sake, their Lord confess,
And stand with Jesu's witnesses !

CHAPTER XVIII.

2789. *And found a certain Jew, &c.*—xviii. 2.

THE persecuted pair
How bless'd in banishment,
By providential care
To an apostle sent !
Into the arms of mercy driven,
They find a plainer way to heaven.

2790. *Because he was of the same craft, &c.*—xviii. 3.

WHERE are the venerable men
Who *Paul* for an example take,
Their living by their labour gain,
Of none expense the gospel make ?

Their uncontested right forego,
And freely ministering the word
Nothing desire or seek below
But souls converted to their Lord?

2791. *Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified, &c.*—xviii. 5.

1 He did not his assistants call
Himself in Jesus' work to spare,
But labouring still surpass'd them all,
And strove with more unwearied care
Jesus the Christ to testify,
The God supreme, the Lord Most-High.

2 Our whole delightful task below
Who have His ministry obtain'd,
Is Jesus to declare and show,
In spirit press'd, by love constrain'd,
To tell, Ye all may Jesus find,
King, Priest, and Prophet of mankind.

2792. *When they opposed themselves, and, &c.*—xviii. 6.

Who dares the gospel truth blaspheme,
Self-harden'd in his lost estate,
What hope, alas, remains for him,
A seal'd abandon'd reprobate!
Who mock the' inspiring Spirit's grace,
Deride the sense of pardon'd sin,
They challenge hell as their own place,
They force the pit to take them in.

2793. *He departed thence, and entered into a, &c.*—xviii. 7.

When we *must* our raiment shake
Pure from the blasphemer's blood,
Sinners finally forsake;
Surely we depart for good:

Good to other souls design'd ;
Thankful for the grace transferr'd,
They the gospel-blessing find,
Find salvation in the word.

2794. *Many of the Corinthians hearing believed.*—xviii. 8.

HEATHENS hear what *Jews* reject,
Cordially the truth embrace,
Reprobates become elect,
Constitute the chosen race :
Whom self-righteous saints deny
Sinful crowds with joy receive,
Outcasts at the point to die
Turn to Christ, believe and live.

2795. *For I am with thee, and no man shall set, &c.*—xviii. 10.

JESUS, Thou takest Thy servant's part,
Present with us Thou always art,
Who Thee proclaim the Christ of God,
Who publish pardon in Thy blood :
The threatening world assault in vain,
If Thou their violent rage restrain.

2796. *And he continued* there *a year and six months.*—xviii. 11.

TEN thousand thousand in our isle
Are waiting for their Saviour's smile :
Here let us then with joy remain,
Ten thousand thousand souls to gain,
Assured Thou wilt our labours bless,
The faithful witnesses increase
Raised up Thy Godhead to adore,
Thy church, till time shall be no more.

2797. *This* fellow *persuadeth men to worship, &c.*—xviii. 13.

1 PASSION brands religion pure,
And sinners blind blaspheme,

Contrary to law be sure
If contrary to them :
Truth they wilfully mistake,
Abhorrers of the gospel-light,
Zeal for God a cloak they make,
Who 'gainst His servants fight.

2 Contrary to custom's law
Our doctrine we confess,
Teach, that souls should stand in awe
Of sin and wickedness,
Teach, that wash'd in Jesus' blood
They all may feel His saving power,
All may then the pardoning God
In spirit and truth adore.

2798. *If it were a matter of wrong or wicked, &c.*—xviii. 14, 15.

1 THE wary magistrate we praise,
If wise and humble he decline
To take his great Creator's place,
And judgment pass on things Divine,
If to determine he forbears,
As umpire in religious jars.

2 But did he not refuse the cause
Through humour, indolence and ease,
Alike for vice, or virtue's laws
A careless unconcern express,
As those who bore the Christian name
Heathens and *Jews* were all the same ?

2799. *But if it be a question of...names,...look, &c.*—xviii. 15.

1 CONTEMPT he justly might express
For his own *Heathen* deities,
His ear from idle questions turn,
And all their names and fables scorn ;

But Jesus is the' important Name
In which the world's Salvation came,
The only Name to sinners given,
More worth than all in earth and heaven !

2 Yet curious man whose reasoning eye
Would into all creation pry,
Hath no innate desire to know
The things of God reveal'd below ;
Averse from the inquiring pain,
He counts that only knowledge vain
On which his present peace depends
And bliss supreme which never ends.

2800. *Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes,...and, &c.*—xviii. 17.

1 OUGHT not the rulers to suppress
The dire effects of blindfold zeal,
Curb the bold sons of wickedness,
Beat down the instruments of ill,
Licentious violence restrain,
And truth defend, and peace maintain ?

2 He made their wickedness his own
Not hindering what he might prevent,
He did the wrong by others done,
The judge oppress'd the innocent ;
And thus his false pretence disproved
Who neither truth nor justice loved.

3 Servants of God, your treatment see,
Such justice from the world expect :
Their boasted love of equity
Always excepts the Christian sect ;
And if your lives the rulers spare
They let your foes in pieces tear

4 Cognizance of your slighted cause
No *Gallio* is concerned to take :
Unshelter'd by your country's laws,
Hated of all for Jesus' sake,
Fly outlaws, fly to *David's* Son,
And refuge find in Christ alone.

2801. *And Paul* after this *tarried* there *yet a, &c.*—xviii. 18.

ASSAULTED, but not hurt, he found
The heavenly vision true,
And stay'd to spread the joyful sound,
The Master's work to do :
By grace invisibly sustain'd
All danger he defied,
And safe amidst the wolves remain'd
With Jesus at his side !

2802. *And sailed thence into Syria.*—xviii. 18.

STILL busy, still for Christ employ'd
In motion or in rest,
The man, the messenger of God,
Is in His service bless'd ;
His providence by land he eyes,
His wonders in the deep,
And sails to distant climes, and flies
With Jesus in the ship.

2803. *With him Priscilla and Aquila.*—xviii. 18.

Two are better far than one,
(Jesus sent them forth by pairs,)
Join'd they bring each other on,
Each his fellow's burden bears,
Who can break a threefold cord,
Mutual helpers in the Lord ?

2804. *Having shorn* his *head in Cenchrea : for, &c.*—xviii. 18.

1 NOT through vile hypocrisy,
Not through superstition vain ;
With the *Jews* a *Jew* is he
Jews in Jesus' cause to gain,
With indifferent things complies,
Wise, for their salvation, wise.

2 O that I like him could stoop,
By my condescending love
Lift the souls of sinners up,
Turn them to their Friend above,
All things unto all become
Instrument of saving some !

2805. *When they desired* him *to tarry longer, &c.*—xviii. 20.

LONG undesired with foes he stay'd,
Yet could his friends' request withstand,
By no inferior motives sway'd,
A servant at his Lord's command
With messages to sinners sent,
Only where Jesus will'd he went.

2806. *I must...keep this feast...in Jerusalem.*—xviii. 21.

FESTIVALS observed to God
We by apostles see :
Let who will the deed explode,
We own the' authority ;
Mysteries of redeeming love
We celebrate like *Paul* the bless'd,
Till we keep with saints above
The everlasting feast.

2807. *When he had landed at Cæsarea, and, &c.*—xviii 22.

CHRISTIAN piety sincere
Our social love commends :

Paul enjoy'd the comfort here
The converse of his friends;
Both his countenance and zeal
He sharpen'd by the pleasing sight,
Travelling on to meet, and dwell
With all the saints in light.

2808. *He...went over* all *the country of Galatia, &c.*—xviii. 23.

1 An apostolic minister
His pastoral unwearied care
By restless labours shows,
Travels and flies from place to place,
And precious souls in Jesus' grace
Confirms where'er he goes.

2 To each he severally applies,
In strengthening all his children tries
Each moment to redeem,
Till life's last hour he labours on,
And grieves that he hath nothing done
For One who died for him.

2809. *A certain Jew named Apollos,...an, &c.*—xviii. 24, 25.

1 The Lord who sends by whom He will
Doth oft out of the people choose
A man of eloquence and zeal
Made ready for the Master's use,
Arm'd with the Spirit's two-edged sword,
'Gainst sin, the world, and fiend to fight,
And mighty to expound the word
And manifest that heavenly light.

2 Prepared to make their Saviour known,
Earnest to propagate His love,
The call extraordinary we own
Of men instructed from above,

Our lack of service to supply
  Who minister in sacred things,
While bold to all they testify
  The grace that sure salvation brings.

2810. *This man was instructed in the way of, &c.*—xviii. 25.

ARE there not found instructors still
  The gospel way who partly know,
And all inflamed with fervent zeal
  The Lamb, the' approaching Saviour show?
Warmly they urge and cry, "Repent,
  Jesus the promised Christ believe,
Believe in God, whom God hath sent,
  And mercy will—at last forgive."

2811. *They...expounded unto him the way of, &c.*—xviii. 26.

1 THE man that hath, that still retains,
  Improving his inferior light,
A clearer light and knowledge gains
  To deal the word of truth aright;
If powerful in the Scriptures now
  And rich in talents he submit
With meek humility to bow,
  And listen at a layman's feet.

2 The meanest saint who Jesus knows
  Can show a learn'd *Apollos* more,
The joy that from believing flows,
  The life, and purity, and power;
A woman by her Saviour taught
  A teacher of good things may prove,
And lead the man with wisdom fraught
  Into the way of perfect love.

2812. *And when he was disposed to pass into, &c.*—xviii. 27.

1 A WARM concern for Jesu's name
  Is not to one estate confined:

People and priests may all proclaim
  The dying Saviour of mankind:
The ministerial spirit may rest
  On men who want the character,
With graces, gifts, and talents bless'd
  To preach the heavenly kingdom here.

2 The' company of faithful men
  Should such with willing hearts embrace,
And suffer God Himself to' ordain
  The chosen vessels of His grace:
The' apostles' successors below
  With glad alacrity should join,
Not to impart, not to bestow,
  But recognise their call Divine.

2813. *Who, when he was come, helped them, &c.*—xviii. 27

1 All the comfortable aid
Through a worm to worms convey'd,
All the grace we gladly own,
Lord, it flows from Thee alone:
Yet, if Thou vouchsafe to bless,
Crown their labours with success,
Ministers shall helpers prove,
Much increase our faith and love.

2 Needful Thee alone we know:
Grace by whom Thou wilt bestow,
Stablishing, confirming grace,
Power to perfect holiness:
We the instruments receive,
Through their word Thy Spirit give;
Cephas use, *Apollos*, *Paul*,
Still Thou workest all in all.

CHAPTER XIX.

2814. *Paul having passed through the upper coasts, &c.*—xix. 1.

1 PASTORS, who live at ease
Without reproach or care
Preachers like *Paul*, with his,
Your services compare,
Your sloth with his extensive zeal,
And self-condemn'd the difference feel.

2 While the succession true
As wholly yours ye claim,
The' apostles' steps pursue,
The toil, the pain, the shame,
Their portion upon earth receive,
And only for your Master live.

2815. *We have not so much as heard whether there, &c.*—xix 2.

1 CHRISTIANS make the same reply
Or a worse answer give ;
Some audaciously deny
That Him ye can receive.
"Ask ; but God will not bestow
The Holy Ghost with you to dwell ;
Only fools and madmen know
Or now the Spirit feel."

2 Most are ignorant that God
Doth still His Spirit impart,
Sheds Him with His love abroad
In every faithful heart ;
By the blood of Jesus bought,
The Principle of righteous deeds,

Every holy word and thought
From Him alone proceeds.

3 Few alas! the need confess
Of His converting power,
Know that God we cannot please,
Or without Him adore;
Cannot seek the things Divine,
Till He the hindrances remove,
Secretly our hearts incline
To pray, repent, and love.

2816. *John verily baptized with the baptism of, &c.*—xix. 4.

1 WHO *John's* sincere disciples are,
They seek their Lord above,
The fruits of true repentance bear,
And tremble, till they love:
Expecting pardon for His sake,
Jesus, they trust will come,
Their souls and bodies too to make
His Spirit's constant home.

2 Our Saviour mindful of His word
To us who dare believe
And wait for our redeeming Lord,
Will soon His Spirit give;
Will with the Holy Ghost baptize,
His saving name declare,
And fit His members for the skies,
And crown with glory there.

2817. *The Holy Ghost came on them; and they, &c.*—xix. 6.

1 GIFTS extraordinary bestow'd,
On them that first believed,

Powers miraculous from God
Are rarely now received;
True and faithful as Thou art,
We yet Thy promised Spirit claim;
Every fearful sinner's heart
May still expect the same.

2 Still the Holy Ghost descends
The' indwelling Comforter,
All the griefs and troubles ends
Of those that Christ revere;
Works His miracles within,
Renews their hearts, and tongues, and eyes
Makes an utter end of sin,
And wholly sanctifies.

3 Always ready Thee we know
This gospel truth to seal;
Saviour, now on us bestow
The gift unspeakable,
In the Comforter come down,
(Who helps us for Himself to pray,)
Take possession of Thine own,
And here for ever stay.

18. *But when divers were hardened, and believed not, &c.*—xix. 9

From men who harden their own hearts
And openly the way blaspheme,
A minister of Christ departs,
In pity and true love to them
Lest they should more obdurate be,
Farther provoke the Lord Most-high,
And fill up their iniquity,
And fighting with their Maker, die.

2819. *He...separated the disciples.*—xix. 9.

FULL of paternal tenderness,
The pastor good will not expose
His children unconfirm'd in grace
To crafty disputatious foes ;
His faithful vigilance he approves
Divinely taught the flock to lead,
Beyond infection's reach removes
And parts the living from the dead.

2820. *Disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus, &c.*—xix. 9

1 ONE door is shut, when God permits.
To open a yet wider door ;
The preacher then his toil repeats,
With warmer zeal, and fuller power ;
Not every week, but every day
Proclaims the salutary word,
And multitudes the call obey,
And *Asia* now receives its Lord.

2 Preachers of Christ, in faith go on,
Nor fear your flock apart to meet,
You, whom self-righteous *Jews* disown,
May find a church in every street ;
In synagogues received no more,
Perceive the thing your Lord intends,
Behold the great effectual door,
And Jesus preach, where'er He sends.

3 Temple, or house, or barn, or school,
(The gospel consecrates the place,)
No matter where, so Jesus rule,
And teach the lessons of His grace ;

Though zealots still the way traduce,
And you as schismatics defame,
Go on; convince both *Greeks* and *Jews*,
And peace to all mankind proclaim.

2821. *God wrought special miracles by the hands, &c.*—xix. 11, 12.

1 "GREATER miracles than these
Shall My disciples do;"
Lord, we at Thy feet confess
The prophecy is true:
Yet Thine only power we own
Who didst by *Paul* the fiends expel,
Virtue flows from Thee alone,
Body and soul to heal.

2 Still the promise is fulfill'd
To them that trust in Thee,
Thine almighty arm reveal'd
With awe we daily see;
Outward signs but shadows were
Of greater miracles within,
Fiends expell'd the soul by prayer,
And sinners saved from sin.

2822. *Certain...Jews...took upon them to call, &c.*—xix. 13.

1 IMPOTENT attempt and vain,
Satan from his house to' expel!
Used, usurp'd by daring man
Jesus' name will not avail,
Nothing by itself can do;
Jesu's Spirit the power supplies,
Satan mocks a faithless *Jew*,
All the synagogue defies.

2 Jesus who divinely know
We His name employ aright,

Confident therein o'erthrow
All the potentates of night:
Jesus, to the faithful race
Arm'd with Thy great Spirit's power
Satan and his host give place,
Fly their ancient Conqueror.

2823. *The evil spirit...said, Jesus I know, and, &c.*—xix. 15.

1 Jesus the woman's conquering Seed
He knew, the Bruiser of his head,
Who hurl'd the' archangel from his throne,
Who cast the foe as lightning down;
And bruises now beneath our feet
And drives him to the burning pit.

2 He knew the' apostle too, endued
With power from the Incarnate God,
Arm'd with his Lord's authority
To set the thralls of Satan free,
To blast the dire destroyer's aim,
And cast him out in Jesus' name.

3 But who are ye, or whence your power,
A church that *Antichrist* adore,
Yet over the demoniac call
The names of Jesus and of *Paul*,
And still to cast him out pretend
By water sprinkled on the fiend?

4 The stubborn fiend will not give place
To all the *Babylonish* race,
Their unintelligible spells,
And charms, and lying miracles;
Nor can he *Rome's* exorcists fear,
Or fly from his own successor.

2824. *Many...brought their books...and burned them.*—xix. 19.

SINNERS, if Christ ye truly seek
Your covenant with Satan break,
An open detestation show,
Of him and all his works below ;
In league with hell who long have been
Bring all your instruments of sin,
Your cards, the devil's books, disdain,
And cast your plays into the flame.

2825. *After these things were ended, Paul purposed, &c.*—xix. 21

1 LOVER of souls he cannot rest,
In *Ephesus* already won
In *Asia* for his Lord possess'd,
But as he nothing yet had done
To *Europe* he his line extends,
And then to earth's remotest ends.

2 No conqueror or hero can
Equal his magnanimity
Whose heart in love to God and man
Enlarged and boundless as the sea,
Its all on every soul bestows,
And the whole universe o'erflows !

2826. *Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our, &c.*—xix. 25.

THE love which worldly men pretend
To things Divine will always end
Where it at first begun :
Gain is their only godliness,
In all their actions they confess
They love themselves alone.

2827. *Not only this our craft is in danger, &c.*—xix. 27.

As for religion's cause
The slaves of *Mammon* fight ;

"Our craft indeed may suffer loss,
But that we seem to slight
The church in danger is!
The vagrants undermine
Our pomp, magnificence, and ease,
And government *divine!*
Their heresy they spread
By day and night employ'd;
The church, if farther they proceed,
The church will be destroy'd!
'T is thus religion's name
We use our ends to screen;
But when the temple! we exclaim,
We our preferment mean."

2828. *Certain of the chief of Asia, which were his, &c.*—xix. 31

JESUS in all times and places,
For His providential ends,
To His threaten'd servants raises
Secret, unsuspected friends;
Our well wishers at a distance
Till the *Ephesian* beasts appear;
Then their counsel or assistance
Saves the Saviour's messenger.

2829. *When the townclerk had appeased the people, &c.*—xix. 35

To the multitude enraged
Their way at first we give;
When their fury is assuaged
They may the truth receive,
Calm to reason's voice attend,
No further with the craftsmen go,
Leave them to their trusty friend
And sure allies below.

2830. *Ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.*—xix. 36.

THE universal fault
O how shall I eschew?
Precipitate in thought,
In word and action too,
My nature's turbulence I own,
And look for help in Christ alone.

2831. *Ye have brought hither these men, which are, &c.*—xix. 37.

REASON and probity forbid
Even those that Christ deny
To second an outrageous deed,
Or join the general cry;
Let Christians hence instructed be
To stand in truth's defence,
And when the just oppress'd they see
To plead for innocence.

2832. *These men...are neither robbers of churches.*—xix. 37.

HOWE'ER your idols we despise,
As dirt beneath our feet,
We dare not *Heathen* scandalize,
Nor sacrilege commit;
Your Queen of Heaven and Patroness
May still her state maintain,
At *Ephesus* her shrine possess,
Or at *Loretto* reign.

2833. *Nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.*—xix. 37.

THE pagan deities of old
But lying demons were;
And modern gods of wood or gold
Their hellish birth declare;
We know their dark original,
Yet will we not presume

In bitterness of zeal to rail
At Satan, or at *Rome.*

2834. *When he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.*—xix. 41.

1 THE waves of the sea When highest they rise,
Are govern'd by Thee Our Lord in the skies;
Thy succour imploring Thy presence we find
To silence the roaring And tie up the wind.

2 The fierceness of men Who threaten so loud
Thy word can restrain And bridle the crowd,
And when it represses Their madness of will
The hurricane ceases, The tumult is still.

3 Whoe'er in Thy hand The instrument be,
Thine only command And action we see;
So nigh to deliver Acknowledge Thy power,
Thy mercy for ever And ever adore.

CHAPTER XX.

2835. *Paul ... departed for to go into Macedonia.*—xx. 1.

BEYOND his persecutors' sight
The' apostle prudently withdraws,
Not by an hasty shameful flight
Deserting his Redeemer's cause,
But sent on other souls to call
And Christ proclaim the Lord of all.

2836. *When he had...given them much exhortation, &c.*—xx. 2.

1 IN our redeeming Lord
Who have believed indeed,
We many a quickening word
Of exhortation need,

Line upon line, to' increase our zeal,
And precept upon precept still.

2 In answer to our cry
Jesus, exhorters raise,
Who may Thy church supply
With Thy confirming grace,
Thy sanctifying will explain,
And bring us to a perfect man.

2837. *When the Jews laid wait for him ...he purposed, &c.*—xx. 3.

1 We do not, Lord, in Thee confide,
But tempt, instead of honouring Thee,
Who lay the common means aside,
Neglect our own security,
And look for Thy protecting grace
In a presumptuous idleness.

2 The prudence which Thy love bestows
As Providence points out, we use,
To disappoint our cruel foes
The most effectual methods choose,
From danger and destruction run,
And then we trust Thy love alone.

2838. *Upon the first* day *of the week, when the disciples, &c.*—xx. 7.

1 That day by earliest saints confess'd,
That day distinguish'd from the rest
By our reviving Lord,
In solemn prayer His people spend,
And constant in His courts attend
The life-inspiring word.

2 We all obedient to our Head
Break the commemorative bread,
Drink the mysterious wine,

Communion with the members know,
And find our heaven begun below
In fellowship Divine.

3 O that the world with us would taste
The double spiritual repast;
The word of pardoning grace,
The sacramental food receive,
And quicken'd by Thy Spirit live,
The life of holiness.

4 Jesus, eternally the same,
Revive the long extinguish'd flame
Of pure primeval love,
To Thee and all Thy people join'd
The world shall then with transport find
How angels live above.

2839. *And...Paul...continued his speech until midnight.*—xx 7.

1 WHO heard the heaven-instructed man
They did not of the length complain,
Or count the passing hours;
The longest night must short appear,
If God bestow the listening ear,
And love the heart o'erpowers.

2 Happy the souls allow'd to hear
Jesus' enlighten'd minister
Discoursing on his Lord!
Happy like them even now we may
Attend the preacher night and day,
Nor lose one precious word.

3 We still may his epistles read,
With *Paul's* celestial doctrine fed,
And bless the messenger,

Nor envy those who heard his voice,
While day and night our hearts rejoice
The Lord Himself to hear.

2840. *There were many lights in the upper chamber, &c.*—xx. 8.

1 WHO after the first Christians tread,
Will all the works of darkness shun,
"In secret have we nothing said,
In secret have we nothing done,"
But walk as children of the light,
Unblamable in open sight.

2 Yet *heathens* still by Satan taught
Repeat the old exploded tale,
Crimes in our midnight meetings wrought,
Horrible mysteries of hell,
Reason's reproach and nature's shame,
Fit only for themselves to name!

2841. *When he...was come up again, and had broken, &c.*— xx. 11.

HAPPY we as those above,
We who keep the feast of love,
Urge each other on to press
Toward the crown of righteousness!
Call'd to different climes away,
We in Christ together stay,
One in spirit, mind, and heart,
Parting we can never part!

2842. *So he departed.*—xx. 11.

PASTORS thus the flock should leave,
Thus we should to pastors cleave,
With their last instructions bless'd,
Love prefer to nature's rest;
Sup rejoicing with our Lord,
Welcome souls to life restored,

Banquet till the morning ray,
Antedate that endless day.

2843. *They brought the young man alive, and were, &c.*—xx. 12

1 FAITH cannot pray in vain :
The scarce departed youth
Brought back to life again
A witness of the truth
Increase of faith to each imparts,
And comforts the disciples' hearts.

2 But our triumphant Head,
Whose death for us we know,
By rising from the dead
Doth mightier joys bestow,
The everlasting gospel seals,
And all His church with transport fills.

2844. *We...sailed unto Assos, there intending to take, &c.*—xx. 13.

FRESH fatigue for Jesus' sake
Is an apostle's rest ;
Happy who his zeal partake,
His successors confess'd !
They with joy renounce their ease,
Themselves in everything deny,
Sinners for their Lord to seize,
And Jesus glorify.

2845. *He hasted, if it were possible...to be at, &c.*—xx. 16.

1 CONSTRAIN'D by Jesus' love,
On wings of rapid zeal
He flew, his ministry to prove,
His office to fulfil,
Herald of gospel grace,
To preach their sins forgiven
To sinners met from every place
And nation under heaven

2 The Comforter bestow'd
He hasten'd to declare,
Purchase of the Redeemer's blood,
And answer of His prayer ;
Another Pentecost
That multitudes might find,
And witness God the Holy Ghost
Pour'd out on all mankind.

2846. *He sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the, &c.*—xx. 17.

1 Ye elders of the first degree,
Your most important function see ;
Your most incessant cares,
Your utmost strength and grace apply
To form, instruct, and edify
The' inferior ministers.

2 Never unfruitful or alone,
A minister for Jesus won
Includes a multitude :
He carries life where'er he goes,
Truly his gifts on all bestows,
And thousands turns to God.

2847. *Ye know, from the first day that I came into, &c.*—xx. 18.

1 Happy the parting minister
Who can to the whole flock appeal,
His own integrity declare,
His life throughout unblamable ;
Who dares the world to witness call
Of every word and action past,
And bold appears in sight of all,
One even man from first to last !

2 O that from instant now I might
The great apostle's steps pursue,

Unspotted walk with Christ in white,
My heart and life and converse new!
My Saviour, evermore the same,
Thy steadfast mind implant in me,
And uniform henceforth I am,
And only live and die to Thee.

2848. *Serving the Lord with all humility of mind.*—xx. 19.

STRANGER to pride and stateliness,
A man of true humility
May yet his own example press,
"Thus far—be followers of me!"
Conscious his way of life is right,
He bids us after him go on,
While least of all in his own sight,
Glory he gives to Christ alone.

2849. *Serving the Lord...with...tears, and temptations, &c.*—xx 19.

1 SERVANTS of God, by Jesus' love
Are not exempt from grief and pain,
Though caught to the third heaven they prove
That still on earth they are but men,
Through sinners' contradiction here
For others, sorrowful they mourn,
Yet guided by the Comforter
With songs of joy to God return.

2 The' apostle gloried in distress:
Yet when his ambush'd foes essay'd
To stop the course of gospel grace,
And oft prevail'd with Satan's aid;
Those haters of the' incarnate God
Who made his Saviour's eyes o'erflow,
The same bloodthirsty men he view'd,
And weeping traced the Man of woe.

2850. *I kept back nothing that was profitable* unto, *&c.*—xx. 20

1 SUCH a witness for my Lord
He knows I fain would be,
Minister the gospel word
With true fidelity,
By the simple truth commend
Myself to all men's consciences,
Keep in view my only end,
To profit, not to please.

2 Faithfully I would declare
Whate'er may useful prove,
Dare to' offend transgressors, dare
The' unruly to reprove;
Preach the cross, whoe'er refuse,
Nor fear by truth to scandalize,
Preach the stumbling-block to *Jews*,
And folly to the wise.

3 What I publicly proclaim
I would in private show,
Teach from house to house the same,
And preach where'er I go;
Urge, repeat, apply, enforce,
My talents, gifts, and life employ,
Till I end my painful course
In everlasting joy.

2851. *Testifying...repentance toward God, and, &c.*—xx. 21.

1 SINNERS, to God your Maker turn,
To God your End; and deeply mourn
Your past ingratitude,
The sum of all our teaching this,
Break off your sins, from evil cease,
And follow after good.

2 Repent in heart, and word, and deed;
The power that doth from Christ proceed
By change of life express,
The correspondent actions do,
And proving your repentance true
Awake to righteousness.

3 But rest not in the work begun,
Nor hope by works or tears to' atone,
And buy your peace with God:
In Jesus seek the living Way:
Jehovah did on Jesus lay
The universal load.

4 Believe in God; believe in Him,
Who died the nations to redeem:
That you may live forgiven,
He tasted death for every soul:
Believe; and by His wounds made whole
From hell ascend to heaven.

5 By faith your sins effaced ye know:
By faith in Jesus' footsteps go,
And all His mind retrieve;
By faith arise for glory meet,
Yet still at your Redeemer's feet
As pardon'd sinners grieve.

6 Always as pardon'd sinners here
Live out your time in lowly fear,
Nor think repentance pass'd
Till all the work of faith is done,
Till all the Christian race is run,
And ye have breathed your last.

2852. *And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit, &c.*—xx. 22.

1 And let the Spirit bind
A preacher of the word
To do and suffer all the mind
Of his beloved Lord;
Prepared alike to' endure
Or act, at Christ's command,
He leaves his threaten'd life secure
In his Redeemer's hand.

2 Not careful to foreknow
What may himself befall,
But only after Christ to go,
As guided by His call;
Assured whom Jesus sends
He covers with His power,
And still His messengers attends,
Till time shall be no more.

2853. *The Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, &c.*—xx. 23.

1 Jesus Thy Spirit shows
That trouble, grief, and pain
Must be the portion of all those
Who would Thy crown obtain;
But we who preach Thy grace,
The outcasts of mankind,
A larger share in every place
Of sharpest sufferings find.

2 Warn'd by the Comforter,
And strengthen'd in Thy cause,
We meet, without surprise or fear,
The' inevitable cross:

To' embrace Thy sacred woe
Thou dost our hearts incline ;
And lo, we live and die, below
A sacrifice Divine !

2854. *But none of these things move me, neither, &c.*—xx. 24.

1 THE holy unconcern
That I even I may learn,
Show me, Lord, the dazzling prize,
Thou Thyself my teacher be ;
Then I shall my life despise,
Only wish to live for Thee.

2 When I my Saviour love,
Nor life nor death can move :
Partner of Thy weal or woe,
For that blissful sight I sigh,
Crucified to all below,
Only wish for Thee to die.

3 Thy gospel-minister
I see my business here,
Witness of Thy saving will,
Of Thy free unbounded grace,
First mine office to fulfil,
Then to win and close my race.

4 I ask not how or when
But be my Saviour then ;
Grant in death my sole desire,
Bid me lay this body down,
Joyful in Thine arms expire,
Share Thine everlasting crown.

2855. *Wherefore I take you to record this day, &c.*—xx. 26.

1 WATCHMAN of *Israel* I,
The gospel trumpet bear,

With loud alarming cry
A coming sword declare!
Set on the city walls I am,
And sinners warn in Jesus' name.

2 The counsel of the Lord
The gracious will I show:
But all shall feel His sword
Who Christ refuse to know:
Only of faith salvation comes;
But infidels His wrath consumes.

3 His mind reveal'd I tell
That all should turn and live,
The quickening principle,
The saving faith receive,
And then His utmost counsel prove,
And then go on to perfect love.

4 On this accepted day
(Witness, ye sinners, bear)
I preach the Truth, the Way,
The Life of souls declare,
I publish now His whole design
To save a world by grace Divine.

5 If now ye hear in vain,
Your proffer'd Lord neglect,
Or saved from sin, again
His pardoning grace reject,
And die in your iniquity,
Ye cannot charge your death on me.

6 Pure from the blood of all,
The servant of my God,
I every sinner call
To faith in Jesus' blood,

Peace, universal peace proclaim,
And heaven for all in Jesus' name !

2856. *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to, &c.*—xx. 28.

1 Arm me Lord with double grace,
That I may with caution tread,
Circumspect in all my ways,
Humbly to myself take heed ;
First myself from evil keep,
Then o'erlook and guard the sheep.

2 Fill my heart with watchful love
For the flock so dearly bought,
Lest a single soul should rove,
Perish through their shepherd's fault;
Jesus keep them all and guide,
All in Thy own bosom hide.

2857. *The Holy Ghost hath made you overseers.*—xx. 28.

1 Who but the Holy Ghost can make
The genuine gospel-minister,
The bishop, bold to undertake
Of precious souls the awful care ?
The Holy Ghost alone can move
A sinner, sinners to convert,
Infuse the apostolic love,
And bless him with a pastor's heart.

2 Not all the hands of all mankind
Can constitute one overseer ;
But spirited with Jesu's mind,
The heavenly messengers appear,
They follow close with zeal Divine
The Bishop great, the Shepherd good,
And cheerfully their lives resign
To save the purchase of His blood.

2858. *The church of God, which He hath, &c.*—xx. 28.

1 BOUGHT with the blood
Of very God,
The church in every nation
Publishes through earth abroad
The God of their salvation.

2 The God made man
For sinners slain,
The Life of each believer,
Did from everlasting reign,
And reigns in us for ever.

2859. *Therefore watch, and remember, that by, &c.*—xx. 31.

1 JESUS the faithful pastors keep,
And stir us up to watch and pray,
As guardians of Thy lambs and sheep
To warn them both by night and day;
To' uncase their *Antinomian* foe
And all his crafty windings show.

2 Remember Lord our griefs and fears
Lest Satan make our labours void,
Lest all Thy work (a work of years)
Be instantaneously destroy'd,
(A triumph for the *Gnostic* fiend,)
And shipwreck'd faith in ranting end.

2860. *I commend you to God, and to the word, &c.*—xx. 32.

1 To succour man whate'er is done
On earth, Thou dost Thyself alone,
God of the ransom'd race,
Wherefore with Thee my flock I leave;
To Thee may all my children cleave,
And to Thy word of grace.

2 Thy word of grace sufficient is,
To stablish them in perfect peace
Without my ministry,
To build them up in holy love,
And qualify for joys above,
And lodge them safe with Thee.

3 Who in Thine oracles delight,
There let them find by day and night
Communion with their Lord,
Thou by Thy Spirit the truth apply,
To save, and wholly sanctify
The searchers of Thy word.

4 Then, then to their immortal state
The doers of Thy word translate,
Bright as the stars to shine;
With all Thy saints on earth renew'd,
Wash'd in Thy sanctifying blood,
And seal'd for ever Thine.

2861. *Yea, ye yourselves know, that these, &c.*—xx. 34.

1 THOSE sacred hands on sinners laid
Had oft the Holy Ghost convey'd,
And special wonders done,
Yet labour'd hard for needful food
That you who serve the church of God
May in his footsteps tread.

2 Those callous hands extended see,
Nor count it strange like *Paul* to be
Neglected or forsook;
Whate'er yourselves or household need
Rejoice to earn your daily bread,
And still to Jesus look.

2862. *And they all wept sore.*—xx. 37.

JESUS wept! and never chid
Tears of social tenderness;
Saints are not by Him forbid
Thus their frailty to confess,
Thus by passion pure to prove
Saints are men of grief and love.

2863. *And fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him.*—xx. 37.

1 WHILE the' afflicted people weep
Hardly let their pastor go,
Can he still his distance keep,
No humane emotions know,
Haughty gravity maintain,
Scorn to share the parting pain?

2 He who knew a father's mind
Must perceive his bowels move,
Must his children's weakness find,
All the tokens of their love
Kindly, cordially receive,
Mix his tears with them that grieve.

3 Tears of saints! how can it be?
Saints rejoicing evermore,
Signs of man's infirmity,
Proofs of God's almighty power!
He who knows their grief to' explain
Knows the heart of God and man.

2864. *Sorrowing most of all for the words which, &c.*—xx. 38.

IF parting from a shepherd good
The loss without regret we bear,
We never rightly understood
How great the blessing and how rare:

Nor need we mournfully complain
  O'erwhelm'd with grief so quickly o'er;
So soon we all shall meet again
  Triumphant on the' eternal shore.

2865.

Bishop supreme, Thy people bless
  With bishops after Thy own heart,
Who may, as vessels of Thy grace,
  Blessings to all our souls impart,
Greatest, as ministers of all
  Their apostolic function prove,
As genuine successors of *Paul*
  In zeal, fidelity, and love.

CHAPTER XXI.

2866. The *disciples...said to Paul through the, &c.*—xxi. 4.

1 The Spirit had to them foreshown
  The' afflictions waiting for their friend,
They counsell'd him the cross to shun,
  Nor to the bloody city ascend;
But partly miss'd the Spirit's mind,
Nor saw the whole by heaven design'd.

2 Jesus the previous knowledge gives,
  And thus His confessor prepares;
His confessor the cross receives,
  By faith's anticipating prayers
His one oblation multiplies,
And daily for his Saviour dies.

2867. *They all brought us on our way, with wives, &c.*—xxi. 5.

1 So lately to each other known,
What is it draws and makes them one
By dearest ties allied?
What is it binds the saints above
In everlasting bonds? the love
Of Jesus crucified.

2 Men the Divine attraction feel,
Women with joy unspeakable
The' uniting grace obtain;
Their children too with heart sincere
Cleave to a parting minister,
And all his blessings gain.

2868. *And we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.*—xxi. 5.

1 Two or three in Jesus' name,
According to His word
Humbly met, may boldly claim
The presence of their Lord;
He Himself prepares the fane
With azure canopy o'erspread,
Ample dome to entertain
The members and their Head.

2 How august the hallow'd place
To faith's discerning eye!
Hallow'd by the present grace
Of Him who fills the sky!
While the Spirit of love and prayer
Into their simple hearts is given
Christ with all His church is there,
And turns their earth to heaven.

2869. *And when we had taken our leave one of, &c.*—xxi. 6.

1 THAT warmth without excess
To true believers known,
That mutual tenderness,
Which melts us into one,
When souls in Jesus' name embrace,
Its heavenly origin displays.

2 From Christ the unction flows,
The Spirit of our Lord,
And here the nature shows
Of our supreme reward,
Sure earnest of our heaven above
Where all is harmony and love.

2870. *We came to Ptolemais, and saluted the, &c.*—xxi. 7.

1 'T IS all our joy, while here below
As sojourners we rove,
To visit those that Jesus know,
And our Redeemer love;
Refreshment sweet in them we find,
And faith and strength renew'd,
And cast the evil world behind,
And closer cleave to God.

2 Awhile in Jesus' servant bless'd,
How short soe'er his stay;
We cheerfully resign our guest
Who tarries but a day;
We travel on with warmer zeal
Till all our toils are o'er,
And meeting on that heavenly hill
Embrace to part no more.

2871. *He took Paul's girdle, and bound his own, &c.*—xxi. 11.

1 NEARER the destined time and place
As Jesus' resolute servant draws,
The spirit of sure prophetic grace
His sufferings in his Master's cause
With clearer evidence foreshows,
And arms him for the coming woes.

2 What honour for the follower poor
Entreated as his Lord to be!
Jesus did more for him endure
To buy His creature's liberty:
(Given up into the *Heathen's* hands)
He bought *our* peace and burst *our* bands.

3 Thrice happy prisoner of the Lord,
Thy gospel still unbound remains;
And nations through the joyful word
Redeem'd shall bless thy sacred chains,
The' apostle of the *Gentiles* own;
But give the praise to Christ alone.

2872. *When we heard these things,...we...besought, &c.*—xxi. 12.

AGAINST distress foreshown
Preventing means we use,
Nor yet our Father's will disown,
Or His decree refuse;
Who oft foretells in love;
That we may 'scape the ill,
And in our timely rescue prove
His acceptable will.

2873. *What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? &c.*—xxi. 13.

1 THE chief of saints may well express
A sympathising tenderness,
And blameless sorrow show;

The faithful soul with Jesus one
Has put his Saviour's bowels on,
And feels the common woe.

2 Yet with the mind of Jesus steel'd
He cannot to entreaties yield,
Or leave the bleeding Lamb,
Warn'd by the Spirit's clearest call
For Jesus' sake to give up all
And suffer for His name.

3 From all the power of passion free,
Against the soft infirmity
Immovable he stands ;
No cross, no suffering he declines,
But cheerfully his life resigns,
When Christ his life demands.

4 O'erjoy'd his faithfulness to' approve,
And pay Him back the bleeding love
Display'd on *Calvary*,
Paul could not speak a greater word
Than "Here I am, my gracious Lord,
Ready to die for Thee."

2874. *When he would not be persuaded, we ceased.*—xxi. 14.

Was it his nature's stubbornness
Withstood their passionate request ?
No ; but the constancy of grace
Which reign'd in his determined breast,
And thus should all our friends combine ;
Persuaded we must never be
Saviour, to thwart Thine own design,
Or shrink to bear Thy cross with Thee.

2875. *We ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.*—xxi. 14.

When to the counsel of our Lord
Our unreserved consent we yield,
Comfort and peace we find restored,
And rest in that which He hath will'd :
Whate'er distress our friends befalls,
If Christ lets loose the adverse power,
And arms whom He to suffering calls,
His will be done, we ask no more.

2876. *We...went up to Jerusalem.*—xxi. 15.

1 The firmness of one, Who follows his call,
With courage unknown May animate all ;
Who trace his example, The world we disdain,
And fearlessly trample On danger and pain.

2 Embolden'd by grace, The mount we ascend,
And joyfully praise Our heavenly Friend ;
With confidence steady On Him we rely,
And then we are ready For Jesus to die.

2877. *The disciples...brought with them one Mnason, &c.*—xxi. 16.

An old disciple of thy Lord
Mnason receive thy sacred guest,
(Thy hospitable love's reward,)
As with an host of angels bless'd :
Thou canst no more on earth require ;
For if possess'd of *Paul* thou art
Thou hast the *Gentile* church entire,
Carried in their apostle's heart.

2878. *Paul went in with us unto James : and all, &c.*—xxi. 18.

No universal head
By the first church was known,
While all approved the' apostle's deed,
He did it not alone :

In every work of grace
His fellow-labourers join'd,
As helpers of the faithful race,
As servants of mankind.

2879. *He declared particularly what things God, &c.*—xxi. 19.

NOT like an hireling vain
Who boasts his own success,
But humble to the church, and plain,
He speaks of Jesus' grace,
Of things his Lord had done
A just narration gives,
While not himself but Christ alone,
The praise of all receives.

2880. *And when they heard* it, *they glorified, &c.*—xxi. 20.

1 OMNIPOTENT Redeemer,
Our ransom'd souls adore Thee,
Whate'er is done,
Thy work we own,
And give Thee all the glory;
With thankfulness acknowledge
Our time of visitation,
Thine hand confess,
And gladly bless
The God of our salvation.

2 Thou hast employ'd Thy servants,
And bless'd their weak endeavours;
And lo in Thee
We myriads see
Of practical believers;
The church of pardon'd sinners,
Exulting in their Saviour,

Sing all day long
The gospel song,
And triumph in Thy favour.

3 Thy wonders wrought already
Require our ceaseless praises;
But show Thy power,
And myriads more
Take into Thine embraces:
But fill our earth with glory,
And known by every nation
God of all grace
Receive the praise
Of all Thy new creation.

2881. *And they are all zealous of the law.*—xxi. 20.

1 HAPPY the man through special grace
From old prejudging errors free,
Errors of birth, or sect, or place,
Habit, or nature's bigotry,
Which with a blind misguided zeal
The heart of true believers fill.

2 O might I none but Jesus know,
Baptized with pure celestial fire!
Saviour, Thy fervent mind bestow,
And bless me with Thine own desire,
That all Thy perfect law may prove
Of life, and liberty, and love.

2882. *And they are informed of thee, that thou, &c.*—xxi. 21.

1 DISPUTE and fierce contention springs
From zeal for outward needless things,
With hasty error join'd:

Their tenets eager to defend,
Men will not patiently attend
To know each other's mind.

2 'T is thus the legalists mistake,
And think that *Moses* we forsake,
And righteous works deny,
Who make the great salvation known,
And teach that God through faith alone
Doth freely justify.

3 Themselves the false conclusion draw;
We do not abrogate the law,
But its abuse remove
And fix it on a steadfast base,
And tell the faithful sons of grace
'T is all fulfill'd in love.

2883. *We have four men which have a vow on, &c.*—xxi. 23. 24.

1 ZEAL will nothing leave undone
The ignorant to win;
Prudence yields to every one
Without committing sin:
Humble saints advised will be,
Nor ever of themselves presume:
Condescending charity
Doth all to all become.

2 But can *Paul* be justified?
To blame let others dare,
Magisterially decide
"The' apostle went too far;"
Nothing from the account appears,
But that the God of boundless grace
Sends His suffering messengers
To all our ransom'd race.

2884 *And...brought Greeks also into the, &c.*—xxi. 28-30.

1 CHRISTIANS as men profane
The world doth always treat,
Our horrid crimes suppose, or feign,
And slander whom they beat:
For proof they cannot stay,
But law's defects supply,
And execute the shortest way
Before they hear or try.

2 The human beasts they rouse
Their temple to defend,
And when we pay our solemn vows
Would us in pieces rend:
The witnesses of grace
Who only Christ adore,
They drag us from the holy place,
And shut the church's door.

2885. *When they saw the chief captain and the, &c.*—xxi. 32.

1 THE wretch so impious and profane,
Abandon'd to outrageous men,
A martyr'd saint appears;
A victim in the sight Divine,
Who freely would his life resign,
To save his murderers.

2 They vow he shall no longer live,
His friends can no assistance give;
But when his Saviour wills,
A *Pagan* sent to interpose
Rescues the Christian from his foes,
And the decree fulfils.

2886. *Then the chief captain came near, and, &c.*—xxi. 33.

CONCERN'D for justice, not for him,
Heathens may oft a saint redeem,
Restrain the cruel foes of peace,
And save him in his last distress:
The earth doth then the woman aid,
The' Almighty's mandate is obey'd,
And all the subject creatures join
To' accomplish His unknown design.

2887. *And commanded* him *to be bound with two, &c.*—xxi. 33.

JEWS the prophecy fulfil,
Jews in the appointed hour,
Whom they sought in vain to kill,
Yield him to the *Gentiles'* power:
Like his patient Master bound
(So the sovereign will ordains)
Paul must spread the gospel sound,
Ransom captives in his chains.

2888. *The multitude...followed after, crying, &c.*—xxi. 36.

1 AWAY with him from earth, they cry,
The wretch too vile on earth to live!
Away with him, the death to die!
The world can grant him no reprieve,
(Of whom the world unworthy was,)
Stone, burn, or nail him to a cross.

2 Such honour all the people gain
Who Thee our Lord and Pattern own,
Condemn'd by fierce unrighteous men,
With clamour violently borne down,
Our life we carry in our hand,
And yield it up at Thy command.

3 But arm us for that fiery hour,
Our Saviour God for ever near,
Clothe with the Spirit of Thy power
And threatening man we scorn to fear,
Who cannot slay or ill entreat,
Or touch us, till Thy love permit.

2889. *Paul...beckoned with the hand unto the, &c.*—xxi. 40.

1 WOUNDED and bruised and drench'd in blood,
Fit witness for a martyr'd God,
He stems the popular tide ;
And while the Saviour he declares,
The marks he in his body bears
Of Jesus crucified.

2 Happy who thus their Lord confess !
Jesus shall arm them with His grace,
His witnesses inspire,
On them the glorious Spirit shall rest,
With love Divine expand their breast,
And touch their lips with fire.

CHAPTER XXII.

2890. *I am verily a man* which am *a Jew, &c.*—xxii. 3.

1 SALVATION'S of the *Jews :*
And these must first proclaim
To twice dead souls the joyful news
Of life through Jesus' name :
A *Jew* must testify
The *legal* types fulfill'd,

The ceremonial veil cast by
The truth in Jesus seal'd.

2 Lord we with thanks adore
Thy providence Divine,
Which fits Thy vessels long before
To answer Thy design;
Zealots to zealots still
Thou sendest to remove
Our stubborn prejudice of will,
And teach Thy pardoning love.

2891. *Brought up...at the feet of Gamaliel.*—xxii. 3.

1 LEARNING unsanctified
Takes the Deceiver's part,
Puffs up with self-sufficient pride
And blinds the faithless heart;
It makes our fetters strong,
Supplies with arms to' assail,
And dearly prove that right is wrong,
And truth a dotard's tale.

2 But when the letter'd man
Is by his Lord subdued,
Gamaliel's humbled pupil can
Advance the cause of God;
A fitter instrument
With gifts and graces join'd
To spread the peace in Jesus sent,
To all our ransom'd kind.

2892. *I persecuted this way,...binding...both men, &c.*—xxii. 4.

HE who furious inquisition
After the disciples made,

Happier was in his condition
  Bound, yet not of death afraid;
Saul a tool of persecution,
  Now the persecuted *Paul*,
Fills the zealots with confusion,
  Owns and preaches Christ to all.

2893. *As also the high priest doth bear me witness, &c.*—xxii. 5.

HAPPY the man redeem'd at last
  From blind misjudging zeal,
Who dares for all his actions past
  To zealous foes appeal:
Able they are to testify
  Of him they hate and fear,
They cannot in their hearts deny
  The madman was sincere.

2894 *It came to pass, that, as I made my journey, &c.*—xxii. 6.

1 A MAN of God, like holy *Paul*,
  Doth still his pardon'd sins confess,
In season due proclaims to all
  The wondrous works of heavenly grace;
Not studious of his own applause,
But zealous for his Master's cause.

2 What Jesus for his soul hath done
  In wisdom meek he testifies,
Makes his dear Lord to sinners known
  That they like Him may wake and rise,
And in the heart-felt gospel prove
The power Divine of saving love.

2895. *There shone from heaven a great light, &c.*—xxii. 6.

1 THE full meridian blaze
  Of evangelic grace

Doth at first the soul confound,
Dazzling with a flood of light,
Strikes the sinner to the ground,
Blinds and then restores his sight.

2 Jesus for him employs
His light, His hand, His voice,
First his unbelief reproves,
Casts him down again to raise,
Speaks upbraiding whom He loves,
Then declares *His* righteousness.

3 O that like *Saul* I might
Behold the heavenly light,
Sink beneath Thy mighty hand,
Call'd my righteous Lord to see,
Lifted up by Thy command,
Wash'd from all my sins in Thee!

2896. *I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou, &c.*—xxii. 8.

1 Born of the flesh, I mock'd the men
Renew'd in love and born again,
My carnal enmity
Against Thy members, Lord, was show'd,
And hating all the sons of God
I persecuted Thee.

2 While obstinate I disbelieved,
Thy Spirit, Lord, I daily grieved,
Denied Thy saving name,
By each transgression of Thy laws,
Again I nail'd Thee to the cross
And put to open shame.

2897. *They...saw indeed the light, and were afraid, &c.*—xxii. 9.

1 The heavenly light to all appear'd,
The sound, but not the voice they heard
With unavailing fright,

Sounds indistinct cannot convert,
And stubborn unbelief of heart
Resists an outward light.

2 To save an infidel from sin,
Eternal Light, appear within
My heart's obscurity;
Display Thy Father in Thy face,
And by the Spirit of Thy grace
Apply Thy word to me.

2898. *When I could not see for the glory of that, &c.*—xxii. 11.

DARKEN'D by the excess of light,
My Guide unseen shall lead aright
A soul that nothing sees;
Thy Spirit shall reach out His hand,
And bring me forth into the land
Of rest and righteousness.

2899. *The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, &c.*—xxii. 14.

1 GOD, my father's gracious God,
If Thou hast made choice of me,
Meant to spread Thy name abroad
Through my prosperous ministry;
Thy whole mind in me reveal,
Life, eternal life impart,
Give the gift unspeakable,
Christ discover to my heart.

2 O Thou just and holy One
Sighs my broken heart for Thee,
Thee the everlasting Son
Grant me eyes of faith to see;
In Thy bleeding form confess'd
All my unbelief remove,

Speak into this troubled breast
Faith and peace and purest love.

2900. *And now why tarriest thou? arise, and, &c.*—xxii. 16.

WHY should I longer stay
And not my Lord receive?
To-day while it is call'd to-day
He would the pardon give;
Convinced I all things need,
Wretched and blind and poor,
I nothing have to pay or plead,
And mercy asks no more.

2901. *Arise,...and wash away thy sins.*—xxii. 16.

CALL'D from above, I rise
And wash away my sin,
The stream, to which my spirit flies,
Can make the foulest clean:
It runs divinely clear,
A fountain deep and wide;
'T was open'd by the soldier's spear
In my Redeemer's side!

2902. *Make haste, and get thee quickly out of, &c.*—xxii. 18.

A PREACHER full of faith and zeal,
Warn'd from above their snares to shun,
Will leave the souls he loves so well
And swiftly from the danger run;
Not struck with unbelieving fear,
But trusted with the gospel word,
He others seeks who gladly hear
And joyfully embrace their Lord.

2903. *And I said, Lord, they know that I, &c.*—xxii. 19.

WE think by truth Divine impress'd
When its full evidence we feel,

It must be soon by all confess'd
The gospel incontestable,
But nothing can the souls convert
Who Jesus Christ will not receive,
Subdue a stubborn bigot's heart,
Or force a *Deist* to believe.

2904. *When the blood of Thy martyr Stephen, &c.*—xxii. 20.

1 A CONVERT purged of all his stains
Of his old cancell'd sins retains
The mournful memory;
My God, he cries, hath mercy shown,
And saved, for Jesus' sake alone,
The chief of sinners, me.

2 Superior grace he cannot boast;
But self-abhorr'd, as in the dust,
Doth still his sins confess;
Less than the least in his own eyes,
Weeping at Jesus' feet he lies,
And humbled all his days.

2905. *Away with such a* fellow *from the earth, &c.*—xxii. 22.

1 CALM he hears their furious cry
Who clamour for his blood,
Knows his life above the sky
Is hid with Christ in God,
Knows he must fulfil his race,
And suffer out his time below;
Fittest for that heavenly place
He then to God shall go.

2 Ye that now the news proclaim
Of a redeeming Lord,
Witnessing with *Paul* the same,
Expect the same reward;

Judged unfit while here ye rove
To tread the earth or breathe the air,
Lift your hearts to things above
And seek your mansions there.

2906. *They cried out, and cast off* their *clothes, &c.*—xxii. 23.

IMPOTENT their rage and vain
The sons of violence show,
Bound, beyond their secret chain
The murderers cannot go:
Let them storm and tear the ground,
And rave, and mingle earth and skies,
Paul in Christ as safe is found
As *Paul* in paradise.

2907. *The chief captain...bade that he should be, &c.*—xxii. 24.

1 SHALL we in time of need
To human justice fly?
We lean upon a broken reed
Whoe'er on men rely:
They then deceive our hope
When we their help require,
And those that should the torrent stop
Assist to raise it higher.

2 Blameworthy they suppose
Whom all conspire to blame,
And used as guilty by our foes
As guilty they condemn;
Rulers in proof receive
The crowd's tumultuous cry,
For whom *they* count unfit to live,
We must deserve to die.

2908. *Take heed what thou doest: for this man, &c.*—xxii. 26.

A STRONGER reason to take heed
May to his hasty foes be show'd,
This man a Christian is indeed,
A servant of the living God!

2909. *He loosed him from* his *bands, and, &c.*—xxii. 30.

LOOSED from his bands, awhile restored
To partial liberty,
He stands, the servant of the Lord,
Whose soul is always free:
To face his foes he cannot fear,
Who knows the day is nigh
When he and they shall both appear
Before the Lord Most-High.

CHAPTER XXIII.

2910. *And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, &c.*—xxiii. 1.

BOLD he sets his steadfast face,
Nor fears the face of man,
Safe within a wall of brass
And free from every stain,
Answering in his own defence
He makes the injured truth appear,
Open is his countenance,
And as his conscience clear.

2911. *The high priest Ananias commanded them, &c.*—xxiii. 2.

1 THE persecuted man
Who pleads his innocence,
And boldly dares his plea maintain,
Commits a fresh offence;

Smote by the slanderous tongue
Unless he silent stand,
The world inflict a further wrong,
And smite him with the hand.

2 'T is thus our baffled foes
To lawless violence fly,
And smite and stop the mouth of those
Who contradict their lie;
Unable to gainsay
The words of righteousness,
They answer us a shorter way,
And truth by blows suppress.

2912. *God shall smite thee,* thou *whited wall, &c.*—xxiii. 3.

TRANSPORTED by prophetic zeal,
Constrain'd the judgment to foretell,
He speaks divinely right;
The threaten'd woe belongs to all,
And God shall every whited wall
With sure destruction smite.

2913. *I wist not, brethren, that he was the high, &c.*—xxiii. 5.

BY that prophetic impulse stirr'd
He did not to the robes advert,
But through the Spirit of his Lord
Discern'd the false professor's heart:
He warn'd him of the' impending woe,
That those who fight with the Most-High,
And touch His people now, may know
They touch the apple of His eye.

2914. *It is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of, &c.*—xxiii. 5.

RESPECT external but unfeign'd
Is to the worst of rulers due,

As dignities by God ordain'd
  The heavenly hierarchy to show:
The' unworthiest of men we own
  Clothed with Divine authority,
And honouring for Thy sake alone,
  Fountain of power we honour Thee.

2915. *And when he had so said, there arose a, &c.*—xxiii. 7.

THE foes of truth, by malice join'd,
  Soon into different factions run,
No lasting bonds the wicked bind;
  Truth only truth continues one,
But error leads a thousand ways
And drops them in the endless maze.

2916. *The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, &c.*—xxiii. 8.

1 THE modern *Sadducees*
    Angels and spirits disown,
Deists no after state confess,
    No God to man made known;
    As when their only care
    This present life were o'er,
Their brutal souls would melt in air,
    And die to live no more.

2 The *Pharisees* maintain
    With zealous fury fill'd
'Gainst all your infidels profane
    The Christian truths reveal'd:
    Yet orthodox at most
    In notions who confide
They may of fewer errors boast,
    And more abundant pride.

2917. *The scribes...strove, saying, We find no, &c.*—xxiii. 9

1 ZEALOTS though unregenerate men
Will for a zealot fight :
Is he of our opinion ? then
He must be in the right :
We can in him no evil see,
We can no longer blame ;
Let the well-meaning man go free,
He thinks with us the same.

2 Defenders of His witnesses
The God of truth and power,
Out of their enemies can raise
In the distressing hour ;
But suffering saints on Christ depend,
And rest in Christ alone ;
Their sure Protector to the end,
Who always saves His own.

2918. *The chief captain, fearing lest Paul should, &c.*—xxiii. 10.

1 WHILE with a fleshly arm
They furiously defend,
To rescue him from harm
Would they in pieces rend ?
The love of *Pharisees* may be
As fatal as their enmity.

2 But vain the striving zeal
Of friendly *Pharisees*,
The great almighty will
Prohibits his release,
An order from above detains
And *Paul* a captive still remains.

3 He knows his Saviour's mind
In his captivity,
In joyful bonds confined
That thousands may go free
To gospel liberty restored,
He rests—the prisoner of the Lord !

2919. *Certain of the Jews banded together, &c.*—xxiii. 12.

1 NOTHING they could by tumult gain,
And legal process was but vain,
The wretch unfit to live they know,
Yet still he lives their church's foe :
When neither mob nor council kill,
Inspired with most infernal zeal,
Lo, to their last resource they fly,
And *Paul* shall by assassins die.

2 As champions for the church they stand,
An oath unites the sacred band,
The holy league is sworn, and now
They must perform their pious vow,
They cannot weakly change their mind ;
The solemn covenant is sign'd,
And earth and hell have both decreed
A stubborn heretic to bleed.

2920. *And they came to the chief priests and elders, &c.*—xxiii. 14.

ELDERS commend their catholic zeal
Devoted heretics to kill,
With joy the reverend conclave join
To' advance their laudable design
The pontiff too his help affords
To gird their consecrated swords,
Their meritorious deed to bless ;
And all the saints ensure success.

2921. *Make ready two hundred soldiers, &c.*—xxiii. 23.

1 SOME put their trust in chariots,
And horses some rely on,
But Christ alone
His people own
The help and strength of *Zion;*
A man of God remembers
In peril and temptation
The Lord of hosts,
And calmly trusts
The God of his salvation.

2 The confessor of Jesus
Confiding in His favour
Perceives prepared
Another guard
By his almighty Saviour;
Myriads of watchful angels
Invisibly attend him,
The flaming band
At Christ's command
With outspread wings defend him.

3 These, these are *Israel's* horsemen,
Whom in the dangerous hour
Our Captain sends,
To save His friends
From every hostile power;
And still *Elijah's* convoy
Is ready to deliver
Their charge below,
Who Jesus know,
And trust in Him for ever.

2922 *Bring* him *safe unto Felix the governor.*—xxiii 24.

THE captain doth the priests defeat,
And saves his prisoner from their snare ;
More mercy from the world we meet
Than those who fill the sacred chair ;
Soldiers may mild and generous be,
To truth and equity inclined,
But justice and humanity
In wicked priests we never find.

2923 *Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of, &c.*—xxiii. 29.

CANDID and honourable men
Who would the injured right,
The law Divine, the world unseen,
The things eternal slight ;
As free from all religious zeal,
And superstitious cares,
As life or death, as heaven or hell,
Were no concern of theirs.

2924. *I...gave commandment to his accusers also, &c.*—xxiii. 30.

1 To groundless lies and slanders bold
If others credit give,
Christians should their assent withhold,
And but on proof believe :
Yet those who bear the name in vain
Nor *Pagan* justice know,
Believe against the righteous man
His unconfronted foe.

2 Even you, the holy fathers, you
The' inquisitors severe,
With blindfold enmity pursue
The Saviour's members here :

Who tax the murderers of *Rome*
The *house of mercy* blame,
As heretics unheard ye doom
Your brethren to the flame.

2925 *He commanded him to be kept in Herod's, &c.* — xxiii. 35

1 Happy *Paul* to bonds consign'd!
What monarch is so free?
Thousands shall the blessing find
Of his captivity;
Kept, (but Christ his Keeper is,
And serves by him His own design,)
Kept, he rests in perfect peace
Within the arms Divine.

2 Jesus, full of truth and love,
Thy Godhead we adore,
Thee we trust the same to prove
Both now and evermore;
Let what will Thy church befall,
It shall to Thy great glory tend,
Magnify the Lord of all,
The saints' eternal Friend.

CHAPTER XXIV.

2926. *And after five days Ananias the high, &c.*—xxiv. 1

1 A judge so late, he quits his place,
(Oh how contemptible and base,
When malice stoops so low!)
See the high priest informer turns,
So fierce his righteous fury burns
Against the church's foe.

2 In ours, in every age are seen
Elders and venerable men
Who sacred things abuse,
Men with infernal malice fraught,
Men in the school of Satan taught
The brethren to accuse.

3 Swift are the steps of angry zeal,
When bigots set on fire of hell
Their utmost powers employ,
To' excite the world against the just,
Hunt down the men who Jesus trust,
And innocents destroy.

2927. *And when he was called forth, Tertullus, &c.*—xxiv. 2.

1 THE counsel learnèd in the laws,
Skilful to flatter and defame,
Opens the prosecutors' cause,
Lost to all sense of truth and shame,
Smoothly employs his venal tongue,
Proves wrong is right, and right is wrong.

2 The judge corrupt and most unjust,
The' oppressor covetous and base,
The slave of every sordid lust,
His worth he blushes not to praise,
But cringing courts a tyrant's smiles,
Loaded with the whole nation's spoils.

3 How can the governor withstand,
When such a powerful speaker pleads?
He must allow the priests' demand,
And add to all his worthy deeds
The proof supreme, the crown of all,
By sentencing the vagrant *Paul.*

2928. *We have found this man* a *pestilent* fellow, *&c.*—xxiv. 5.

1 SILENCE! *Tertullus* speaks!
"We have this fellow found,
This vagabond who outcasts seeks,
And strolls the nation round:
To spread his poisonous lies
The' itinerant presumes,
And riotous assemblies rise,
And mobs where'er he comes.
2 A universal pest
He plagues both rich and poor,
And will not let one sinner rest
In Satan's arms secure:
He doth the crowd infect,
Into his net he draws
And multiplies the Christian sect,
And glories in the cross."

2929. *Whom we took, and would have judged, &c.*—xxiv. 6.

ACCORDING to your law indeed
Ye with the messengers proceed
Who Jesus testify:
Your justice ye by facts declare,
The men ye first in pieces tear,
And then proceed to try.

2930. *The chief captain Lysias came* upon us, *&c.*—xxiv. 7.

THE men who public peace maintain,
And wisely resolute restrain
The rabble's furious will,
Should violent to the violent seem,
And still persist to wrest from them
The power of doing ill.

2931. *Forasmuch as I know that thou hast, &c.*—xxiv. 10, 11

No ornaments in its defence
The cause of pure religion needs;
Simplicity, their eloquence,
And truth itself for Christians pleads.

2932. *I went up to Jerusalem for to worship, &c.*—xxiv. 11, 12.

1 WHO after *Paul* and Jesus tread,
We duly to the temple go,
Thither by His own Spirit led,
We our unfeign'd devotion show;
The house we honour, not profane,
Our solemn prayers and vows repeat,
Communion with the saints maintain,
And then the King of saints we meet.

2 Our foes, the superstitious crowd,
Who to the brick and mortar cleave,
The church, the church, who roar so loud,
To us both house and altar leave:
They seldom come, or not at all,
The prayers neglect, and slight the word,
Yet us the Separatists they call,
Themselves the temple of the Lord!

2933. *After the way which they call heresy, so, &c.*—xxiv. 14.

1 So worship I my fathers' God,
Who bought us with His precious blood,
Who died for all, in all to live:
His presence in my heart I feel
In holy joy unspeakable,
Joy, which the world can never give.

2 Fill'd with His purity and power,
In truth and spirit I adore,
A way by formalists unknown,

A way which *Rome* can never see,
But calls it Northern heresy,
A way to heaven through Christ alone.

2934. *Believing all things which are written, &c.*—xxiv. 14.

1 THE written word, entire and pure,
The word which always shall endure,
My rule of faith and life I own ;
Not reason or tradition vain,
Not the authority of man,
Not an internal light *alone.*

2 Built, through the sacred oracles,
On Christ, the Rock that never fails,
Religion from the fountain brought
I find it in the heavenly book,
What *Moses* and the prophets spoke,
What Christ and His apostles taught.

2935. *And have hope toward God, which they, &c.*—xxiv. 15, 16.

1 GOD is my hope and portion here,
And till I at His bar appear
Body and soul with Him I trust :
My enemies themselves confess
That Jesus shall our bodies raise,
Judge of the wicked and the just.

2 My hope by purity I show,
By labouring all my time below
A spotless conscience to maintain,
With that immortal prize in view,
Careful to render all their due,
Unblamable toward God and man.

2936. *I came to bring alms to my nation, &c.*—xxiv. 17.

1 My hope is fix'd on things above,
My faith exerts itself by love,
By yearning pity for the poor;
Christ in His members to relieve,
Cheerful my little all I give,
I render them my all and more:

2 Their advocate with others I,
A beggar turn for their supply,
Their every want my own I make,
Honour as God's peculiar seed,
And only live to serve and feed
My bosom-friends for Jesus' sake.

2937. *Certain Jews from Asia found me purified, &c.*—xxiv. 18.

How does he break the law of God,
Or stain the house of holiness,
In keeping of that law employ'd,
And reverencing that sacred place?
These are the facts on which they found
Their charge of gross impiety;
For when pure malice is the ground,
Falsehood the only proof can be.

2938. *Who ought to have been here before thee, and, &c.*—xxiv. 19.

The witnesses who cried so loud,
Demanding succour of the crowd,
All parties if the judge will hear,
They think it time to disappear:
Fierce zealots thus in every age
Against the real Christian rage,
But shrink, abscond, and stand aloof,
When magistrates require the proof.

2939. *Felix...deferred them, and said, When Lysias, &c.*—xxiv. 22.

NOT hasty, not precipitate,
To sentence, or to clear,
'T is wisdom in a judge to wait
And all informants hear ;
He then shall to the utmost know,
And Jesu's servant find
A minister of good below,
A friend of all mankind.

2940. *He sent for Paul, and heard him, &c.*—xxiv. 24, 25.

1 No smooth-tongued orator is he,
But foe to all iniquity,
The greatest dares reprove,
A preacher rational of grace,
Explains the life of righteousness,
Sobriety, and love.

2 He preaches Christ, and faith in Him,
Who died His people to redeem,
Who soon in judgment comes,
And those that made Him die in vain,
That dead in wilful sin remain,
To death eternal dooms.

2941. *As he reasoned of righteousness, &c.*—xxvi. 25.

1 A MAGISTRATE corrupt and lewd,
A sinner wallowing in his blood,
He seizes by the word ;
And while his conscience he awakes,
The judge before the prisoner quakes,
And feels the two-edged sword.

2 He feels the' anticipated fear
Of sinners when the trump they hear,
And see the Judge come down,

When on the melting rocks they call,
And bid the burning mountains fall
To hide them from His frown.

3 The *Heathen* dreads His righteous doom,
The *Jewess* slights the wrath to come,
Partaker of his sin,
She sleeps in forms insensible,
Till the wide opening mouth of hell
Vesuvius takes her in.*

2942. *Go thy way for this time; when I have a, &c.*—xxiv. 25.

1 He trembles, but he cannot stay
And perfectly inquire the way,
To' escape the endless woe;
Convinced of his belovèd crime;
Yet for a more convenient time,
He lets the present go.

2 Alarm'd in vain the truth he hears,
Repentance fatally defers,
And faith in Jesus' name;
He waits as life were in his power,
Waits for a more convenient hour,
Which never, never came.

3 Neglecting such a time as this,
What crowds of guilty souls will miss
The true celestial way,
(Who would not, when they might repent.)
And in eternal groans lament,
Their damnable delay!

* She was swallowed up there. [*Author's Note*]

2943. *He hoped...that money should have been, &c.*—xxiv. 26.

SILVER and gold he none possess'd,
Poor follower of a Master poor,
But with substantial riches bless'd,
Riches which evermore endure;
To men that sold themselves for nought,
An instrument their souls to save,
The promised liberty unbought,
Freely as he received, he gave.

2944. *Wherefore he sent for him the oftener, &c.*—xxiv. 26.

How soon a miser's fears are past,
How transient his remorse within!
Pangs of repentance cannot last
While *Felix* cherishes his sin:
The love of gold and beastly vice
Destroys the work but just begun,
It stops his ears, puts out his eyes,
And turns again his heart to stone.

2945. *Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, &c.*—xxiv. 27.

IN vain of temperance he heard,
And judgment for a moment fear'd,
Who held his idols in his heart,
Nor would with the adulteress part,
Nor would a suffering saint release,
But fill'd with all unrighteousness
Appeased his foes at the expense
Of injured, helpless innocence.

CHAPTER XXV.

2946. *And desired favour against him, that he, &c.*—xxv. 3.

FAVOUR against the good,
Not justice they desire,
The *Jews* to shed a martyr's blood,
The priest, again conspire,
By pride and envy wrought
To slay their guiltless foe ;
Such evils (horrible to thought)
From false religion flow !

2947. *But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept, &c.*—xxv. 4.

1 THE' imperial dignity alone
Festus determined to maintain,
But *Christ* ordains, by means unknown,
To rescue from bloodthirsty men
The chosen vessel of His grace,
The preacher of *His* righteousness.

2 Strangers He secretly inclines,
Beyond what they themselves conceive,
To execute His love's designs
On us who for His glory live ;
And till His utmost will is done,
In snares and deaths we must live on.

2948. *Sitting on the judgment seat commanded, &c.*—xxv. 6.

1 BEHOLD the man, the prisoner there !
Who now is standing at the bar,
Shall sit with Jesus' chosen ones,
Apostles shining on their thrones.

2 The saint whom those outrageous *Jews*
So fiercely vehement accuse,

With His assessors in the sky,
Shall the twelve tribes of *Israel* try.

3 The members one with Christ their Head,
So the Almighty hath decreed,
When heaven and earth are pass'd away,
Shall judge the world in that great day!

4 The angels too, the' accusing fiends,
Sentenced to pain that never ends,
Must then to their just doom submit,
While vengeance seals the burning pit!

2949. *While he answered for himself, Neither, &c.*—xxv. 8.

1 THE' unrighteous world with malice blind,
Against the real Christian speak
Evil and lies of every kind,
And madly our destruction seek:
Accused of every wicked deed
Their hatred we repay with love,
"Not guilty" to their slanders plead,
And challenge them the charge to prove.

2 To envy's general calumny
An answer short, yet full we give,
Stand fast in our integrity,
Sober and just and godly live:
A general answer may suffice,—
Preserved from every moral stain,
Our country, church, and king we prize,
And keep the laws of God and man.

2950. *Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be, &c.*—xxv. 9.

WILT thou in that bloody place
Before the elders stand,
Tempt the persecuting race,
The sworn assassin band?

There the hellish spirit maintains
His court to after ages known,
There the ancient murderer reigns,
As on his favourite throne.

2951. *For if I be an offender, or have committed, &c.*—XXV. 11.

I FOR no favour sue,
The vilest and the worst
(If such I am) may claim his due;
Condemn; but hear me first:
Me, as the public foe
Whom guilty they presume,
An heretic, or rebel show,
And without mercy doom.

2952. *I appeal unto Cæsar.*—XXV. 11.

1 PRISONER of Christ, to death pursued
By priestly hate implacable,
From those who thirsted for his blood
He doth to *Nero's* self appeal,
More just than those who saints traduce,
More merciful than canker'd *Jews*.

2 Far better 't is that righteous men
Into the *Heathen's* hands should fall,
Than theirs who holy things profane
Themselves the Christian temple call,
And dare as all their own to claim
The church's venerable name.

2953. *Unto Cæsar shalt thou go.*—XXV. 12.

1 So a superior order wills
Which *Festus* cannot see,
While ignorantly he fulfils
The' omnipotent decree.

The secret springs of Providence
Which rule our actions here
Are unperceived by grosser sense,
And but to faith appear.

2 Beneath the purposes of men
Our God His own conceals,
Conducts the deep mysterious plan,
And governs all the wheels.
The thing His agents least intend,
To do His will they come,
And *Jews*, combined with *Gentiles*, send
His messenger to *Rome*.

2954. *It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver, &c* —xxv. 16.

1 'T was not the way of *Pagan Rome*
Unheard the prisoner to condemn,
But Christian *Romanists* can doom
Men unconvicted to the flame,
Innocent saints in secret kill,
With blood *the house of mercy* fill.

2 And shall not, Lord, the *Heathens* rise
To judge the Christians in that day,
When answering to the martyr's cries,
Thou dost Thy vengeful wrath display,
And pay the murderers their hire,
And cast into eternal fire?

2955. *Certain questions...of one Jesus.*—xxv. 19.

1 With what indifferent carelessness
He speaks of his expiring God,
Who died for him, and all our race,
And bought our pardon with His blood!
Is it a trivial question then
If Jesus is gone up on high?

Unless our Surety lives again
Festus and all mankind must die.

2 The rich and great of *Festus* learn
That Jesus slightingly to name;
They in His death have no concern,
No benefit from His life they claim.
Alas, they will not now believe
That every knee to Him shall bend,
And from His mouth their doom receive
To joys or pains that ne'er shall end!

2956. *I would also hear the man myself.*—xxv. 22.

1 "I MYSELF would hear the man,"
Wilt thou let thine idols go?
Nature urges thee in vain
New or curious things to know;
If from sin thou dost not cease,
Hearing must thy guilt increase.

2 Let the self-condemn'd and poor
Long forgiveness to receive,
Let the sick desire their cure,
Sinners languish to believe,
Faith will enter through the ear,
Come, and save the souls that hear.

2957. *Agrippa...and Bernice, with great pomp, &c.*—xxv. 23.

1 WITH vain magnificent excess,
With gold and gems and costly dress
The trophies of their pride,
They charm the captivated crowd;
But can they from the eye of God
Their shame and vileness hide?

2 The glare of royal pageantry
Admired by vulgar eyes may be,
And beauty's idle boast,

But cannot inward peace procure,
Or dignify the slaves impure
Of foul, incestuous lust.

3 Their dazzling state let faith compare
With that poor prisoner at the bar,
Who answers God's designs,
Adorn'd with truth and holiness,
With wisdom meek, and constant grace,
He all their pomp outshines.

4 Ye that in rich attire delight,
Say, which is the illustrious sight,
And more your eyes detains,
A woman lewd in fair disguise,
Loaded with pearls, and stain'd with vice,
Or holy *Paul* in chains?

2958. *Paul was brought forth.*—xxv. 23.

1 BROUGHT before kings, he stands,
A greater king than they,
Who o'er sea-sever'd lands
Extend their awful sway,
The saint arraign'd by faith we own
Greater than *Cæsar* on his throne.

2 A king to God above
He bears His image here,
The majesty of love,
The Saviour's character,
Superior dignity maintains,
And by the cross of Jesus reigns.

2959.

1 No time the prisoner needs
For trial to prepare,
Who Jesu's promise pleads
In faith's unceasing prayer,

And looks for wisdom in that hour
Their common enemies to' o'erpower.

2 The Lord of all, he knows,
In whom he puts his trust,
Free utterance bestows
And answers in the just ;
And hence he on the word relies
Calm as a saint in paradise.

3 While standing at the bar
He hears the trumpet's call,
Descending in the air,
Beholds the Judge of all,
And sits with Jesus on His seat
And sees the world beneath his feet.

2960. *The Jews...crying that he ought not to live, &c.*—xxv. 24.

JEWS may clamour for his blood,
Their hate to satisfy,
Louder in the ears of God
The loving Spirit's cry :
While the fiend his death desires,
Nor would another hour reprieve,
Jesus in the saints requires
His minister may live

CHAPTER XXVI.

2961. *Paul...answered for himself.*—xxvi. 1.

1 THE judge his innocence confess'd
Yet lo, he at the king's request
Repeats his righteous plea ;

A ready condescension shows,
And pays the just respect he owes
To listening majesty.

2 Himself permitted to defend,
He answers for a nobler end,
Not for himself alone,
But call'd before the rich and great
Arrests them on the judgment seat,
And makes his Saviour known.

2962. *I think myself happy, king Agrippa, &c.*—xxvi. 2.

1 To magistrates of God ordain'd
We bow with reverence unfeign'd,
Nor wait till Christ they know,
Assured the' almighty Judge supreme,
In love to man, appointed them
His ministers below.

2 Exempt a Christian would not be,
But counts it his felicity,
When privileged to' appear
His own integrity he shows,
And proves against a world of foes
His life and conscience clear.

2963. *My manner of life from my youth,...know, &c.*—xxvi. 4.

1 Happy who for his conduct past
Can to his foes appeal,
Foes that have seen from first to last
A life unblamable!
Who dares his warm accusers press,
What have ye found in me?
As touching legal righteousness
A perfect *Pharisee!*

2 Stripp'd of his rags, with double power
Witness to Christ he gives,
The God that all our sorrows bore,
And sinful men receives.
The promised Peace, Desire, and Hope
Of all our ransom'd race,
Who lifts despairing sinners up,
And saves a world by grace.

2964. *Why should it be thought a thing incredible, &c.*—xxvi. 8.

1 May not a creating God,
Who built this house of clay,
Re-inspire the breathless clod,
In His appointed day?
From the dust He form'd us man,
And shall we circumscribe His power?
Doubtless the Almighty can
Our moulder'd dust restore.

2 He who breathed into our earth
The breath of life Divine,
By a new celestial birth
Can God and sinners join;
Will a quickening Spirit become,
Our souls extinct again to raise,
Call'd out of our nature's tomb,
To live the life of grace.

3 Dead in sins and trespasses,
Jesus His people saves:
Lord, by faith we Thee confess,
The opener of our graves;
Joyfully the pledge receive
Of blissful immortality,

Sure our bodies too shall live
For ever one with Thee.

2965. *I verily thought with myself, that I ought.*—xxvi. 9.

A BIGOT obstinately wrong,
Yet certain he is right,
May confident continue long
'Gainst Jesus Christ to fight;
May persecute the witnesses
With blind pernicious zeal,
And while he thinks his God to please
Rejoice the fiends in hell.

2966. *I punished them oft in every...city.*—xxvi. 11.

THE witnesses by Jesus sent
Have always counted been
As only fit for punishment
By all the slaves of sin;
And urging them the faith to' abjure,
With dire malicious joy
They then behold their ruin sure,
They then their souls destroy.

2967. *I persecuted* them *even unto strange cities.*—xxvi. 11.

ERROR, ye *Pharisees* sincere,
Ye mean to' exterminate,
Nor know, who hate His members here,
That Christ Himself ye hate;
Exposing us to pain and shame,
While in His steps we move,
Ye act against the Saviour's name,
Ye hate the God of love.

2968. *Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?*—xxvi. 14.

1 SAVIOUR, whose manifested love
A persecuting *Saul* o'ercame,
Appear, illustrious from above,
To them who now resist Thy name,
With mad despite Thy flock pursue,
For O, they know not what they do.

2 Send forth a kind convincing ray
Thou glorious Effluence Divine,
To chase the clouds of sin away
In nature's deepest darkness shine,
With dreadful light Thy foes surround,
In mercy smite them to the ground.

3 Give them to feel the irksome pain
Of men who dare their God oppose,
Who kick against the pricks in vain,
Pierce themselves through with various woes,
But never can successful be,
Or triumph o'er Thy church and Thee.

4 Their unsuspected guilt reveal,
The sudden keen conviction dart,
And show the men in league with hell
They take Thine ancient murderers' part,
And all who on the members tread
Insult and persecute the Head.

5 Then, Lord, Thy fallen murderers raise
After Thyself to ask of Thee:
Saviour of all our prostrate race,
Open their eyes Thy love to see,
And in their inmost souls make known
Our God and Thee for ever one.

2969. *But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I, &c.*—xxvi. 16.

1 THOU who hast cast me down
By unresisted grace,
To make Thy mercy known
A grovelling sinner raise;
And lo, with strength Divine I stand,
And walk and run at Thy command.

2 Jesus to me appear
The Son of God and man,
Thy chosen minister
And witness to ordain;
Who cannot testify of Thee,
Unless Thou show Thyself to me.

3 No vision of my God
But that of faith I need,
Faith in the' atoning blood
For dying sinners shed;
I want to feel the blood applied,
To see the Lamb as crucified.

4 Soon as Thy wounds I see,
And my Redeemer know,
Thy death reveal'd in me
I will to others show,
And every fresh display of grace
Proclaim to all the ransom'd race.

2970. *Delivering thee from the people, and* from, *&c.*—xxvi. 17.

1 WHERE'ER our Lord is pleased to send,
He doth His messengers defend,
The faithful God and true;
He leads us oft into distress,
But present with His witnesses
He always brings us through.

2 To *Jews* and *Gentiles* sent we feel
The fury of self-righteous zeal,
And violent wickedness;
But feeling our Deliverer nigh,
Our souls, till all the storms pass by,
Are kept in perfect peace.

2971. *To open their eyes*, and *to turn* them *from*, *&c.*—xxvi. 18.

1 WITH Thy commission Lord, we go,
And wake the dead that sleep below
In nature's dark estate:
Alarm'd they lift their guilty eyes,
And see with terror and surprise
The light which sinners hate.

2 Poor trembling sinners we incline
(But oh the work is wholly Thine)
With all their sins to part;
From Satan's power to Thee they turn,
And conscious unbelievers mourn
For purity of heart.

3 Thy Spirit helps them to believe,
And then forgiveness they receive
Seal'd in Thy precious blood,
And cleansed from every sinful stain,
Faithful to death, a lot they gain
With all the saints of God.

4 Through faith their pardon'd sin they know,
Through faith to full perfection go,
(That depth of humblest love!)
Through faith they put Thine image on,
And win, through faith in Thee alone,
Angelic thrones above.

2972. *I was not disobedient unto the heavenly, &c.*—xxvi. 19, 20.

OBEDIENT to the heavenly call,
Thy mercy's meanest instrument,
Saviour I preach Thy grace to all,
And cry in every place, Repent,
Return, ye wandering souls, to God,
The fruits of true repentance show,
And wash'd with sanctifying blood
In Jesu's steps to glory go.

2973. *For these causes the Jews caught me in, &c.*—xxvi. 21.

FOR this let fiery zealots seize,
(If Thou the ruffians' hands unbind ;)
Me in the courts of holiness,
The temple's foe, they still may find :
Assured that Thou art always near,
I come to suffer all Thy will,
By love Divine forbid to fear
The men who can this body kill.

2974. *Having...obtained help of God, I continue, &c.*—xxvi. 22

1 YET till Thy sovereign grace permit
They cannot touch one sacred hair :
And hence, my Lord, I labour yet
Escaped, unhurt, from every snare ;
Rescued by military bands
Or whomsoe'er Thy love employs,
I rest in Thy almighty hands,
And underneath Thy wings rejoice.

2 Thy servant here I still remain,
And testify to great and small
Whate'er Thine oracles contain ;
The sum, the end, the truth of all,

Thee, Jesus, Thee I love to show,
Who hast the prophecies fulfill'd;
And in Thy blood we all may know
The promises for ever seal'd.

2975. *That Christ should suffer*, and *that He, &c.*—xxvi. 23.

1 THE law and prophets all foretold
That Christ should die, and leave the grave;
Gather the world into His fold,
The church of *Jews* and *Gentiles* save.
The First-begotten from the dead,
Thou hast into our darkness shone,
In sinners' hearts Thy Spirit shed;
And all our loving souls are one.

2 Yet, by the prince of darkness bound,
The nations still are wrapp'd in night;
They never heard the joyful sound,
They never saw the gospel light.
Light of the world, again appear
In mildest majesty of grace,
And bring the great salvation near,
And claim our whole apostate race.

2976. *Paul, thou art beside thyself; much, &c.*—xxvi. 24.

MORE of this madness, more.
Of this true learning give,
Jesus, whom I confess before
The world that disbelieve!
My faith let men mistake
For mere insanity,
Beside myself for Thy dear sake,
I live and die to Thee.

2977. *I am not mad, most noble Festus; but, &c.*—xxvi. 25.

1 TRUTH, not ourselves, to justify
We should with bold respect reply,
Nor silently the world permit
To tread the pearl beneath their feet,
Whene'er their ignorance reprove
The language pure of faith and love.

2 Freedom the cause of God requires
And wisdom meek His Spirit inspires;
Divinely taught we then express
His power, and truth, and soberness,
And that eternal Reason show
Our God in Christ reveal'd below.

2978. *King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets?*—xxvi. 27.

WHO believes the prophets true
Will he not *Paul* believe?
Will he not his Saviour too
Into his heart receive?
Faith which leads us to the skies
In faith historical begins;
Faith Divine the blood applies
That blots out all our sins.

2979. *I know that thou believest*—xxvi. 27.

JESUS' messenger at last
Brings home the pointed word,
Seizes, holds the sinner fast
A captive for his Lord:
See, the vanquish'd monarch see!
He bows to a superior power,
Sinks as one who must agree,
And can resist no more.

2980. *Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost, &c.*—xxvi. 28.

1 POOR *Agrippa !* but almost
Persuaded to embrace
Him who saves the sinner lost,
And offers all His grace !
Grace and Christ almost to gain
Is quite to miss the deathless prize ;
Take another step—and then
Thy soul's in paradise.

2 Partner of the heavenly hope,
In the good work begun
Do not with *Agrippa* stop,
But now with *Paul* go on :
Full consent to Jesus yield,
With all thy heart to Jesus given,
His, entirely His, and fill'd
With the pure life of heaven.

2981. *I would to God, that not only thou, but, &c.*—xxvi. 29.

1 CONSCIOUS of my happiness,
Peace, unutterable peace
Would I not to all impart,
Peace which now o'erflows my heart,
Makes it tenderly inclined,
Draws it out to all mankind !

2 Bless'd with my felicity
O that every soul might be,
Feel what real Christians feel,
Joy incomprehensible,
Live the life of those above,
Swallow'd up and lost in love !

2982. *Except these bonds.*—xxvi. 29.

A SUFFERER for his Saviour's cause
Cannot for sufferings pray,
Nor would the' anticipated cross
On weak beginners lay :
He wishes them to rest unknown,
Conceal'd from grief and shame,
Till Jesus calls them forth to own,
And triumph through His name.

2983. *And when he had thus spoken, the king rose, &c.*—xxvi. 30.

Who that moment's price can tell
On which his all depends,
Heavenly bliss unchangeable,
Or woe, which never ends ?
Did the king his time improve,
Or cast the' important point away ?
All before the throne above
Shall know, in that great day.

CHAPTER XXVII.

2984. *It was determined that we should sail into, &c.*—xxvii. 1.

IN the council of the sky
It predetermined was,
Paul was chosen to testify
Of Him that stain'd the cross ;
God, whatever man intends,
Hath work at *Rome* which must be done ;
Thither He his labourer sends,
To serve His will alone.

2985. *They delivered Paul and certain other prisoners, &c.*—xxvii. 1.

NUMBER'D with transgressors here,
The servant doth as Christ appear;
With felons link'd, the lot receives
Of Jesus placed between the thieves;
Suffering with Christ, he truly knows
The grace that from his Saviour flows,
The power of Him who reigns above,
And all the life of heavenly love.

2986. *Entering into a ship...we launched, &c.*—xxvii. 2.

1 *LUKE* and *Aristarchus* too
With the suffering saint remain:
Love can all things bear and do,
Love esteems the prisoner's chain;
Keeps and will not let them part,
One in state and one in heart.

2 Two or three in Jesus' name
Met, according to His mind,
Did they not the promise claim?
Did they not the promise find?
Boldly launch into the deep,
Safe with Jesus in the ship?

2987. *Julius courteously entreated Paul.*—xxvii. 3.

1 IF Christ to try our faith ordain,
The cruel hearts of faithless men
To nature's bent He leaves;
And then the persecuting foe,
Let loose his enmity to show,
Our flesh or spirit grieves.

2 But when our Lord intends to cheer
His poor afflicted confessor,
He doth the hate remove,

And soften'd then for His design,
Soldiers' and *Heathen's* hearts incline
To gentleness and love.

3 Entreated with humanity,
Jesus Thy love's effect we see,
Thine interposal own,
In enemies or strangers kind
The favour of our God we find,
And praise our God alone.

2988. *Paul admonished* them, *and said, &c.*—xxvii. 9, 10

In outward things, with faith endued
Full frequently we find
A present store of counsel good,
And readiness of mind.
The Spirit of faith and wisdom too
Makes future dangers known;
But if our Leader we pursue
We every evil shun.

2989. *The centurion believed the master and the, &c.*—xxvii. 11

How should a prisoner poor and bound
The mariners advise?
A Christian is of judgment sound,
And wiser than the wise;
By providential love employ'd
He serves our greatest need;
And artists too when taught of God
In their own art exceed.

2990. *When the south wind blew softly, supposing, &c.* xxvii. 13, 14.

1 Foolish men, your hope is vain:
Can ye thus your purpose gain,

Warn'd, the warning who despise,
Rashly slight a saint's advice,
Trust a smiling wind, before
God's inspired ambassador!

2 Tyrants of the sea and land,
Winds arise at His command,
Brought out of His treasuries
The devoted vessel seize;
Serving their almighty Lord,
Winds and storms fulfil His word.

3 He whom winds and seas obey,
Doth His sovereignty display,
Jesus, Master of the storm
Doth His own designs perform,
Jesus in the *Heathen's* eyes
His own servant magnifies.

2991. *We let* her *drive.*—xxvii. 15–17.

1 THE means of life to gain
What will not mortals dare?
Fearless they tempt the stormy main,
And all the dangers there!
On rocks and quicksands still
Through hurricanes they ride,
And trust a feeble pilot's skill,
And in a plank confide.

2 But few alas, depend
On an almighty Lord,
Whose faithful mercies never end
To those that keep His word;

Who counts our every hair,
And hides our souls above,
The objects of His guardian care
And providential love.

2992. *We cast out with our own hands the tackling, &c.*—xxvii. 19.

1 WORLDLINGS, anticipate the day
When that ye count your chiefest good
Yourselves shall wish to cast away,
A sore, and worse than useless load
Which soon will sink your shatter'd ship,
And plunge you in the' infernal deep.

2 Skin for your skin, and all ye have
Ye give, in jeopardy extreme,
A momentary life to save,
A dying body to redeem ;
But if to save your wealth ye choose
Your soul's eternal life ye lose.

2993. *All hope that we should be saved was then, &c.*—xxvii. 20.

1 A PICTURE of my life I view,
And sensibly perceive it true,
By long temptations toss'd,
With rocks and shoals and whirlpools near,
My soul, my shipwreck'd soul, I fear
Will be for ever lost.

2 In a dark world I wander on,
No joyous all-enlivening sun
My gloomy sorrow cheers,
Throughout the melancholy night,
To guide me by its friendly light,
No glittering star appears.

3 My latest hope alas is o'er ;
I cannot reach that heavenly shore,
The gusts of passion rise
So fierce, so high the billows roll,
And on this long afflicted soul
So huge a tempest lies.

4 Bear as ye list, ye whirlwinds bear !
A wretch o'erwhelm'd with just despair,
O'erwhelm me with the wave
Unless the God of love unknown,
Will, for the honour of His Son,
Miraculously save.

2994. *Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, &c.*—xxvii. 21.

1 He first their wilfulness reproves,
And then the abjects cheers,
Kindly their sad despair removes,
And dissipates their fears ;
Ready through fear of death to die
The comfort they receive,
And all who on the word rely
Shall by the promise live.

2 The sinners who his counsel slight,
And bear their stubbornness,
A Christian never can delight
To' insult in their distress ;
Desponding souls he lifts them up
When sunk beneath their load,
Inspiring them with faith and hope
In *his* almighty God.

2995. *There stood by me this night the angel.*—xxvii. 23.

1 A present help in trouble,
Whene'er our wants require,

When danger 's nigh,
To Christ we fly,
And find Him always nigher ;
No storms or tempests hinder
Our God's commiseration,
Who everywhere
Displays His care,
And shows us His salvation.

2 With trembling crowds surrounded
With horror and dejection,
Thee, Jesus, Thee
By faith we see,
And rest in Thy protection ;
More than an host of angels
Thy promise to deliver
Comforts our hearts,
And strength imparts,
And life that lasts for ever.

2996. *Whose I am, and whom I serve.*—xxvii. 23.

1 A FEW compendious words
Religion's whole contain ;
By faith I am the Lord's,
By faith I His remain ;
In hope I serve His blessed will,
And all His law in love fulfil.

2 The creature of my God
By Him in being held,
The purchase of His blood
To Christ His right I yield,
His, wholly His rejoice to be,
Who made, preserves, and died for me.

3 Jesus, Thine own defend,
Fill up my faith and hope,
And, loving to the end
Receive Thy servant up,
And for the work Thyself hast done
Reward with an immortal crown.

2997. *Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before, &c.*—xxvii. 24.

1 Let infidels fear
When destruction is near:
A believer is hidden above,
Out of danger is he,
From anxiety free,
In the arms of omnipotent Love.

2 The tempest may roar,
But it cannot devour,
While on Jesus's promise alone
Secure he relies,
He all evil defies,
Till the work of his Master is done.

2998. *And, lo, God hath given thee all them, &c.*—xxvii. 24.

1 One good man endued with power,
Whom all the rest reject,
Singly bold, in danger's hour,
May a whole land protect;
Listening to a Christian's prayers,
Who pleads in faith the' atoning blood,
Oft the God of mercy spares
A sinful multitude.

2 O that such might now appear,
As in the gap to stand,
One appointed messenger
To guard *Britannia's* land!

Jesus, send by whom Thou wilt ;
But ere we plunge into the deep,
Rid us from this load of guilt,
And save the sinking ship.

2999. *Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer : for I, &c.*—xxvii. 25.

1 THE consolation from above,
Which first himself receives,
Trusting in his Redeemer's love,
To troubled souls he gives :
A Christian among *Heathens* found,
With God's protection bless'd,
Will comfort by his faith's rebound,
And strengthen all the rest.

2 The Lord hath spoke, the faithful Lord
His sacred word hath pass'd,
And shall He not fulfil His word,
And save their lives at last?
Jesus in whom a saint confides,
His promise must perform :
And still He on the whirlwind rides,
And still directs the storm !

3000. *Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.*—xxvii. 26.

FAITH beholds the' invisible ;
An heavenly Pilot's hand
Undergirds the shatter'd keel
And guides it to the strand :
Safe through the tempestuous deep
To *Malta's* fatal isle he steers,
Malta's isle must break the ship,
And save the passengers.

3001. *Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot, &c.*—xxvii. 31.

1 THE word conditional he knew,
Did on the' appointed means depend,

And God the merciful and true
Would on their toil His blessing send.
He knew the oracle was sure,
For truth Himself the promise gave,
And Jesus would the lives secure
Of all who strove themselves to save.

2 The Saviour never supersedes
The hallow'd industry of man,
But when our faith His promise pleads
He bids us every sinew strain;
And, while we in the ship abide,
Exerting all our gracious power,
With Jesus we the storm outride,
And reach through Him the heavenly shore.

3002. *While the day was coming on, Paul besought, &c.*—xxvii.33.

WHO would not his advice pursue,
He ceases not to give them new,
He courts till he prevails:
Love is the same, whoe'er oppose,
Nor haughtiness nor anger knows,
And never, never fails.

3003. *I pray you to take* some *meat: for this is, &c.*—xxvii. 34.

HOW quickly changed my God, by Thee
Mortals and their conditions are,
The prisoner sets his keepers free,
Redeems them by his faith and prayer.
The Christian if Thy will ordain,
Life to idolaters shall give,
And save a second time the men
Who him account not fit to live.

3004. *He took bread and gave thanks to God, &c.*—xxvii. 35.

IN presence of the *Pagan* crowd
He shows his faithfulness,

And asks the Giver of their food
To sanctify and bless.
Jesus' Jehovah's worshipper,
He stands in open day:
But Christians before Christians fear
And basely blush to pray.

3005. *Then were they all of good cheer, and they, &c.*—xxvii. 36.

1 THE faith of *Paul* they see,
And then the word receive,
Revived by his alacrity
They venture to believe;
His firmness they behold
Whose life on Christ is cast,
And through his confidence made bold
They all escape at last.

2 'T is thus with faithful *Paul*,
To dying souls we cry,
And bid them trust the Lord of all
On whom ourselves rely:
Redeem'd for Jesus' sake,
Believe our gospel true;
Our own eternal life we stake
On what we promise you.

3 Our danger is the same,
But lo, we dare depend
For grace and glory on His name
Whom we to you commend:
With us His word believe,
With us His promise prove,
Your life through Jesus' death receive,
And reach the port above.

3006. *And we were in all in the ship two hundred, &c.*—xxvii. 37.

1 So many influenced by one
Whom all for their example take!
Their lives, (and not their lives alone,)
Saved for their unknown Saviour's sake;
Paul could not for their lives entreat,
And their endanger'd souls forget.

2 Surely he ask'd his Lord to spare
Their souls as at the point to die,
And Jesus in His servant's prayer
Regarding His own Spirit's cry,
Received them all into His fold,
And in His book of life enroll'd.

3007. *They ran the ship aground; and the forepart, &c.*—xxvii. 41.

THE batter'd ship, by tempest toss'd
Had all the mighty shocks received,
Yet clear of rocks, and sands, and coast,
Weather'd the storm and strangely lived;
But when it to the land sticks fast
In pieces dash'd, it sinks at last.

3008. *The soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners.*—xxvii. 42.

1 STRANGERS to faith we cannot trust:
If soften'd for a time they be,
Too soon ungrateful and unjust,
Strangers to kind humanity
With *Cain*, the murderer, they rise,
Their brethren's lives to sacrifice.

2 The instruments to save their souls
Without remorse the ruffians kill,
Unless our Lord their rage controls,
Our Lord who bids the winds "*be still*,"
And binds the sea, through His command,
In chains of adamantine sand.

3009. *The centurion, willing to save Paul, &c.*—xxvii. 43.

HAPPY loss of liberty,
Which men with saints endure,
Captives your deliverer see
And rest like *Paul* secure,
Through a prisoner of the Lord
Preserved from the tempestuous main,
From the peril of the sword
Ye live redeem'd again.

3010. *And the rest, some on boards, and some on, &c.*—xxvii. 44

1 OUR omnipotent Lord
Remembers His word,
His promise fulfils,
While in human endeavours His arm He conceals;
In the means we perceive
By whose mercy we live,
And thankfully own,
The deliverance wrought, He hath wrought it alone.

2 All glory and power
To the God we adore!
Salvation is His,
Ever nigh to redeem from the hellish abyss:
Preserved by His love
Our souls are above,
Secure in His hand
Till with joy we arrive in Immanuel's land.

3 Though our vessel be broke
If we faithfully look
To the Saviour of all,
And on Jesus's name for deliverance call,
A plank or a board
The old ship will afford,
And in Jesus's power
We on that shall escape to the heavenly shore.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

3011. *The barbarous people shewed us no little, &c.*—xxviii. 2.

1 WHO boast their form of godliness,
Most cruel enmity express
To them that Jesus know;
Idolaters assistance give,
With hospitable love receive,
And kindest pity show.

2 Mercy from savages we find,
(When Jesus hath their hearts inclined,)
In the distressing hour,
While Christians civilised in vain,
As sheep appointed to be slain,
The saints of God devour.

3012. *Paul...gathered a bundle of sticks, &c.*—xxviii 3.

HIS loving labour he repeats,
With kind industrious care,
To meanest offices submits
The common minister;
Ye friends of God, ye humble saints,
From His example know,
To serve the soul's or body's wants,
Ye cannot stoop too low.

3013. *There came a viper out of the heat, &c.*—xxviii 3.

ESCAPED from the tempestuous sea
Who dared in God confide,
By dangers new his faith must be
By fresh temptations tried;
The viper fasten'd on his hand
And shook into the flame
Shall show that both by sea and land
His Saviour is the same.

3014. *They said.. No doubt this man is a, &c.*—xxviii. 4.

1 PARTIALLY by nature taught,
Though barbarous and rude,
Murder's crying crime they thought
By wrath Divine pursued:
"God His own decree fulfils,
And always acts as Judge below,
Blessings to the righteous deals,
And to the wicked woe."

2 God (as yet they did not see)
Who doth His children grieve,
Spares the sons of cruelty,
And lets a murderer live:
Oft on earth His blood is shed;
But vengeance, if it here delay,
Falls the heavier on his head
In that tremendous day.

3015. *They changed their minds, and said that, &c.*—xxviii. 6.

To opposite extremes so prone,
The giddy multitude
Judge in an hour, the saint unknown
A murderer, and a god!

3016. *Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his, &c.* xxviii. 8.

1 KNOW all who help bestow
On Jesus in His poor,
Good to the saints ye cannot show,
Without receiving more;
Expect your kindness here
An hundred-fold restored,
And when His glory shall appear,
Your infinite reward.

2 But first your present need
Of a Physician know,

And virtue shall from Him proceed
Who bore your griefs below;
His help if sinners claim
As quite incurable,
The prayer of faith, in Jesu's name,
Doth soul and body heal.

3017. *So when this was done, others also, &c.*—xxviii. 9.

1 *PAUL* for his companions pays
At Jesus's expense,
In the *Heathen's* eyes displays
His Lord's omnipotence;
Makes it on their bodies known,
That then their languid souls may prove
Health restored through Christ alone,
And bless His pardoning love.

2 Debtor both to *Greek* and *Jew*,
Did he not Christ proclaim?
Debtor to *Barbarians* too,
He preach'd where'er he came;
(Conscious of his Master's mind
When to remotest countries driven)
Preach'd the Saviour of mankind,
The Peace of earth and heaven.

3018. *Who also honoured us with many honours, &c.*—xxviii. 10.

UNSPEAKABLY bless'd
In a stranger distress'd,
Who *Paul* entertain,
Unawares they receive an angelical man.
Enrich'd by a wreck,
For his ministry's sake
They esteem and caress
The physician of souls, and the vessel of grace!

3019. *A ship,...whose sign was, Castor and Pollux.*—xxviii. 11.

Go, sacred ship, from stormy seas
  Secure, thy heavenly treasure bear,
Not left to *Pagan* deities
  But safe in Providence's care ;
Protected by a nobler sign
  Through Jesus' worshipper thou art,
The Saviour's cross and blood Divine,
  His God he carries in his heart !

3020. *Puteoli, where we found brethren.*—xxviii. 13, 14.

Who can tell the consolation,
  When the suffering sons of grace,
Heirs and partners of salvation,
  In their Saviour's name embrace ?
Peace of Jesus's bestowing,
  Joy that swells to be express'd,
Love from the pure Fountain flowing,
  Streams through every faithful breast.

3021. *And were desired to tarry with them seven days.*—xxviii. 14.

1 The prisoner of the Lord,
    But His apostle too,
  He own'd the pardoning word
    Was every sinner's due,
Nor could, wherever sent, delay
His evangelic debt to pay.

2 Employ in every place
    With precious souls he found,
  And made their hearts confess
    The word could not be bound,
Which captive leads captivity
And bids a sinful world be free.

3022. *The brethren...came to meet us...whom, &c.*—xxviii. 15.

CHRISTIANS he exults to meet,
Christians come from Satan's seat,
Where the idols are enthroned
There he sees his Saviour own'd :
Jesus he delights to bless,
Fill'd with joy and thankfulness,
Comfort streaming from above
All the confidence of love.

3023. *We came to Rome.*—xxviii. 16.

A CAPTIVE, poor, despised, and bound,
His entry into *Rome* he makes,
Yet greater far than victors crown'd
Whom Jesus for His servant takes !
The plagues and scourges of mankind
They forced the slaves their yoke to feel,
But *Paul* is come the world to' unbind,
And triumph o'er the hosts of hell.

3024. *Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with, &c.*—xxviii. 16.

LED into captivity
Thy servants favour find ;
Is it not a look from Thee
That makes their keepers kind ?
Human hearts are in Thy hands,
Thy hand in all events we own,
Free, or bound at Thy command,
And kept by Thee alone.

3025. *Though I have committed nothing against, &c.*—xxviii. 17.

INTREATED as a criminal,
The Saviour's messenger
Doth meekly, in the sight of all,
His innocency clear :

Whose character is not his own,
Whom all unjustly blame,
He keeps, for Jesu's sake alone,
A pure unspotted name.

3026. *Not that I had ought to accuse my nation of.*—xxviii. 19.

WE never can recriminate
Who to the Lamb belong,
Nor dare our fiercest haters hate,
Or render wrong for wrong;
When charged with crimes they cannot prove,
The truth to justify
We speak constrain'd; but tenderest love
Prevents a sharp reply.

3027. *For the hope of Israel I am bound with, &c.*—xxviii. 20.

1 BOUND he is, yet truly free,
Bound for his Redeemer's sake,
Him who suffering on the tree
Did for all atonement make;
Doth to every sinner bring
Pardon in His sprinkled blood,
Christ the Prophet, Priest, and King,
Israel's Hope, and *Israel's* God.

2 On this only ground relies
Every soul that faith receives,
Jesus my Redeemer dies,
Jesus my Redeemer lives;
Lives, that I and all mankind
May, to liberty restored,
Fulness of salvation find,
Live for ever with our Lord.

3028. *We neither received letters out of Judæa, &c.*—xxviii. 21.

1 WHERE are the venerable men,
The eloquent *Tertullus*, where?

Could *Jews* their bitter wrath refrain?
Or did their consciences declare
That *Pagans* were more just than them,
And would not without proof condemn?

2 While God their baffled rage averts,
They counteract their own design,
Spite of their own malicious hearts,
In *Paul's* defence the zealots join,
Absent, they on his side appear,
And silent, his uprightness clear.

3029. *We desire to hear of thee what thou, &c.*—xxviii. 22.

1 RELIGION undefiled and true
Was always by the world decried;
The wisdom, which they never knew,
They still as foolishness deride,
God's children scornfully reject,
And brand them as an impious sect.

2 But followers of the *Nazarene*,
Our Lord's reproach we gladly share,
Rejected, and despised of men,
Till bold appearing at His bar,
His confessors with smiles He owns,
Commends, and seats us on our thrones.

3030. *Some believed...and some believed not.*—xxviii. 24.

1 WHENE'ER we preach our pardoning Lord,
Some disbelieve the faithful word,
And some confess its power;
Savour of life or death it proves,
The stony from their hearts removes,
Or hardens them the more.

2 The poor and blind receive their sight,
With faith's unspeakable delight
A precious Christ esteem;

But stubborn *Pharisees* disdain
Salvation through a Saviour slain,
And infidels blaspheme.

3031. *Well spake the Holy Ghost.. unto our fathers.*—xxviii. 25.

1 THE Holy Ghost, the' eternal Lord,
Jehovah spake the awful word,
Divinely just and true ;
Denounced against your fathers first
The threat, ye reprobates accursed,
Shall be fulfill'd on you.

2 The cause is in yourselves unknown,
Their damning sin ye make your own,
Their incredulity ;
The light of truth ye cannot find,
Dead in your sins, and doubly blind,
Because ye will not see.

3 Your eyes through obstinate despite,
Ye close against the irksome light,
Afraid in this your day
To see what would secure your peace,
The Lamb, whose blood and righteousness
Bore all your sins away.

4 Your ears ye stop, afraid to hear
Of fiery indignation near,
Of wrath reveal'd from heaven,
Of means the Judge's wrath to shun,
And all His will to man made known,
With news of sin forgiven.

5 Ye dare not turn to God and live,
Lest when He doth the sin forgive
From which ye would not part,

His Spirit of purity and love
Should all its dire remains remove,
And dwell within your heart.

6 But you who thus refuse to see,
Shut up in unbelief shall be,
And hard be harder still ;
Your names erased out of His book,
Your stubborn souls of God forsook,
And left to your own will.

7 The gospel then ye hear in vain,
The heavenly way direct and plain
Ye see, but not perceive ;
And if the Spirit is quench'd at last,
And if your gracious day is past,
Ye never can believe.

8 In sad judicial blindness left,
Of Jesus totally bereft,
Your hearts insensible,
Your conscience sear'd no longer cries,
And self-destroy'd ye close your eyes
To lift them up in hell.

3032. *Be it known therefore unto you that the, &c.*—xxviii. 28.

1 JUST in your own eyes, Who Jesus reject,
And proudly despise His vilified sect,
The *Jews* of our nation Ye will not believe
Or know the salvation Which sinners receive.

2 The outcasts of men, The reprobate race,
As *Heathens* profane Their Saviour embrace ;
Your hearts if ye harden, They thankfully hear
The news of a pardon And paradise near.

3 That kingdom of His Which Jesus imparts,
That rapturous peace Is sent to their hearts,

To *Heathens* is given Through faith in His blood
Forgiveness from heaven, Salvation from God.
4 The publicans hear His peace-giving word,
And sinners sincere Acknowledge their Lord,
His blessing inherit, His image retrieve,
And fill'd with His Spirit In paradise live.

3033. *The Jews...had great reasoning among, &c.*—xxviii. 29.

BLIND infidels, ye must contend,
And fight, and cavil without end,
Who hate the Truth, the Life, the Way,
Ye must in deadly error stray;
Faith only can your doubts remove
By the pure energy of love,
Make all your vain disputings cease,
And fill your hearts with lasting peace.

3034 *And Paul dwelt two whole years in his, &c.*—xxviii 30.

1 GIFTS to the saints at *Rome*
He long had wish'd to' impart;
And now the time is come
For uttering all his heart,
For publishing to rich and poor
The kingdom from above,
The joy that always shall endure,
The power of Jesu's love.
2 Jesus and Him alone
The Saviour he proclaims,
The God and man makes known,
His offices and names,
His doctrine, life, and wonders here,
His suffering and His rise,
His mission of the Comforter,
And reign above the skies.
3 The door which Christ displays,
Nor men, nor fiends can close,

Or stop the course of grace
That through this vessel flows;
The chosen vessel of his Lord
Must His whole counsel show,
And bold dispense that royal word
Which builds His church below.

4 Not in a lower sphere
Of narrower good he moves,
Ordain'd to minister
To all whom Jesus loves,
Apostle of the ransom'd race
He preaches unconfined,
In every age, in every place,
He *writes* to all mankind.

3035. *Preaching the kingdom of God, and, &c.*—xxviii. 31.

1 Jesus, Thy servants bless,
Who sent by Thee proclaim
The peace, and joy, and righteousness,
Experienced in Thy name;
The kingdom of our God
Which Thy great Spirit imparts,
The power of Thy victorious blood
Which reigns in faithful hearts.

2 Our souls with faith supply,
With life and liberty;
And lo, we preach and testify
The things concerning Thee;
We live for this alone,
Thy grace to minister,
And all Thou hast for sinners done
In life and death declare.

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